FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-223
Friday
18 November 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-223 *18 November 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 November Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns Against Rejecting PNC Resolutions *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 16 Nov]* 3
PLO FRG Envoy Admits Israel's Right To Exist *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PFLP, DFLP, PPSF Welcome Syrian Support *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PFLP-GC Calls for 'Mourning' Over Resolutions *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Fatah Dissidents Criticize PNC Decisions *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Palestine Liberation Front Leader Dies *[KUNA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Voices Support for PNC Resolutions *[MENA]* 8
Further on Discussions *[MENA]* 8
PNC Chairman, Jerusalem Mufti Arrive in Cairo *[MENA]* 9
PNC Declaration 'Impetus to Peace Efforts' *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Papers Welcome Proclamation of Palestinian State *[MENA]* 10
Papers Comment Further on PNC Declaration *[MENA]* 10
Paper Stresses Need for U.S. 'Impartiality' *[AL-AHRAM 15 Nov]* 11
Cheysson on Recognition of Palestinian State *[AL-AHRAM 13 Nov]* 11
Solidarity Committee Supports Palestinian State *[MENA]* 12
Sources on Rejection of Israeli W. Bank Plan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Nov]* 12
U.S. Seeks Freeze of Cooperation With USSR *[AL-WAFD 14 Nov]* 12
Development of Cooperation With USSR Viewed *[MENA]* 12
Diplomatic Sources Cited on Ties with Algeria *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT]* 13
Ambassador Badawi Speaks to UN General Assembly *[MENA]* 13
Columnist Urges Halt to Jewish Tourism *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Nov]* 14

Libya

Hungary's Deputy Foreign Minister Visits 12 Nov *[JANA]* 14
Al-Qadhdhafi Attends People's Committee Session *[JANA* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Siad Barre *[JANA]* 15
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Beninese Envoy 15 Nov *[JANA]* 15

Mauritania

Black Opposition Member Dies in Wallata Prison *[BBC]* 15
Recognition of Palestinian State Declared *[Nouakchott Radio]* 15
Head of State Receives PRC Economic Delegation *[Nouachott Radio]* 15

Sudan

Joint SPLA-DUP Statement on Accord *[Radio SPLA]* 16
Armed Forces Gain 'Full Control' of Fronts *[Omdurman]* 16
Al-Mirghani Seeks 'Fraternal' Support for Army *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
AL-SAFIR Interviews Communist Party Leader *[Beirut 16 Nov]* 17

Tunisia

Ben Ali, Baccouche Meet With PLO's 'Arafat *[Tunis Radio]* 19
Further on Meeting *[Tunis Radio]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit of Iran's Besharati 20
Arrives 9 Nov *[WAKH]* 20
Gives Message to Amir *[WAKH]* 20
Talks With Foreign Minister *[WAKH]* 20
Departs for UAE *[WAKH]* 20

Kuwait

ARAB TIMES Welcomes PNC's 'Right Decision' *[16 Nov]* 20

PDRY

Paper Interviews Nu'man on U.S., USSR Ties *[London AL-MAJALLAH 9-15 Nov]* 21

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Departs for OPEC Meeting 17 Nov *[Riyadh Radio]* 22

United Arab Emirates

Federal Council Supports Palestinian State *[WAKH]* 22
AL-ITTIHAD Lauds Proclamation *[15 Nov]* 22
Military Helicopter Crashes; 16 People Killed *[WAKH]* 22

IRAQ

U.S. Embassy Confirms Expulsion of Diplomat *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 23
President Speaks on Lebanon, Palestinian State *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Reportage on Visit of Romanian Trade Minister 24
Gives Message to President *[INA]* 24
Visits With Planning Minister *[INA]* 25
Sees Agriculture Minister *[INA]* 25
Departs After Visit *[INA]* 25
Indonesian Officials Visit for Economic Talks 25
Mining Minister Arrives *[INA]* 25
Junior Trade Minister Arrives *[INA]* 25
Saddam Husayn Receives Message 25
Ramadan Receives Trade Official 25

ISRAEL

Alignment, Likud Form 'Secret' Negotiation Team *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Labor Party Circles Object to Unity Government *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Peres: PNC Move Creates More Complications *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Peres Briefs Heads of Foreign Representations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir Briefs Congressmen on 'Who Is a Jew' Law *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
U.S. Jewry Reaction to 'Who Is a Jew' Law Noted *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Commentary on New Leadership in Gaza Strip *[HA'ARETZ 10 Nov]* 27
Declaration Puts Shamir, Country on Defensive *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Nov]* 28
Further on Curfews, Casualties in Territories 29
Ramallah Closed to Media *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Uprising' Death Toll Reported *[HA'OLAM HAZE 16 Nov]* 30

Policemen Hurt in E. Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
2 Gaza Youths Wounded 30
13 Wounded in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Cabinet Establishes Death Penalty Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Egypt Steps Up Antiterror Measures Along Border *[HA'ARETZ 11 Nov]* 31
Palestinians Allowed To Enter Egypt Overland *[AL-QUDS 11 Nov]* 31
Tabah Demarcation To Start in 'Next Few Days' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Captured 'Terrorists' Describe 'Suicide Mission' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
IMI Unveils Motorized Deception Drone *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Nov]* 32
Police Demand UN Forces Stop Surveillance *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Talks With Hungary on Relocating Failing Factories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
El Al Inaugurates Flights to Budapest *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Unemployment Up; More Work Permits Issued *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Nov]* 33
Large October Trade Deficit Shows 'Grim Picture' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Nov]* 33
CPI up 2.4 Percent; Inflation Rate 17.2 Percent *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Drug Seizures, Addiction Data Reported 34

JORDAN

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey *[Amman Radio]* 35
Returns From Visit 15 Nov *[PETRA-JNA]* 35
Egypt's Al-Baz Visits 11 Nov, Makes Statement *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Nov]* 35
'Relative Arab Satisfaction' With Bush Election *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Nov]* 36
Paper Praises King's Speech, Urges Support *[AL-RA'Y 13 Nov]* 36

LEBANON

Further on Kidnapping of Red Cross Official 37
Red Cross Confirms Kidnapping *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Palestinians Involved in Search *[VOL]* 37
Red Cross 'May Suspend' Activities *[RFL]* 37
Group Vows To Ensure Release *[VOM]* 37
Act 'Directed Against' PLO *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Shi'ite Scholar Reportedly Kidnapped in UAE *[Beirut Radio]* 37
'Awn Cabinet Recognizes Palestinian State *[RFL]* 37
Al-Khatib Discusses Appointment, Policies 38
Comments on 'Awn Remark *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Calls for Unity of Army *[VOM]* 38
Interior Minister Views Al-Khatib Appointment *[Voice of the People]* 38
Al-Husayni Views Ties With Syria, Elections *[London AL-HAWADITH 18 Nov]* 39
Syrian Army To Withdraw From West Beirut *[RFL]* 40
Israeli Aircraft Overfly Sidon, Camps *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Popular Liberation Army, 'Agent' Militia Clash *[VOM]* 40
Israeli Forces 'To Dispense' with Lahd Militia *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Gunmen Attempt To Infiltrate UN Position *[RFL]* 40
Al-Biqa' Hit by Earth Tremor; No Casualties *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message *[Damascus TV]* 41
Government Policy Supports Palestinian State *[SANA]* 41
General Talas Addresses War College Graduates *[Damascus Radio]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Sharq Delivers Report on USSR, UN Visits *[Kabul Radio]* 42
122d Note Charges Airspace Violation *[BAKHTAR]* 44
123d Note on Attack on Newsmen *[BAKHTAR]* 44

BAKHTAR Cited on Armed Forces Operations *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Armed Forces Spokesman Describes Operations *[Kabul Radio]* 45

India

Reportage on Mikhail Gorbachev's 3-Day Visit 46
Spokesman Previews Visit *[ISI]* 46
Gorbachev Itinerary Outlined *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Airport Arrival, Ceremony *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Received by President Venkataraman *[Delhi Radio]* 47
'Wide-Ranging' Talks With Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 48
PRK's Hun Sen on Nonaligned Role in Conflict *[Delhi Radio]* 48
4 'Terrorists,' 2 Policemen Killed in Amritsar *[Delhi Radio]* 48

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Troops in Ahvaz *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Majlis Speaker Addresses Dezful Air Force Base *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Karrubi on 'Conspiracies' Against Palestine *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Islamic Group Condemns Recognition of Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Musavi-Ardabili Condemns Recognition of Israel *[IRNA]* 50
Further Comments on Outcome of Geneva Talks *[RESALAT 12 Nov]* 50
Velayati on Talks at Weekly 'Roundtable' *[Tehran TV]* 51
Enemies 'Might' Force Resumption of Gulf War *[Tehran Radio]* 55
UN Commander Ends Tour of Cease-Fire Line *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 55
Letter of Understanding Signed With USSR *[IRNA]* 55
USSR Envoy Discusses Parliamentary Ties *[IRNA]* 55
Commentary on Pakistan's 'Path Toward Democracy' *[Tehran Radio]* 56

Pakistan

Bhutto Claims Enough Support To Form Government *[AFP]* 56
Ishaq Khan Congratulates Successful Candidates *[Islamabad Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

17 Injured in Bomb Explosion at Election Rally *[LANKAPUVATH]* 56
Presidential Candidate Unhurt *[AFP]* 57
Police Open Fire on Demonstrators; 1 Killed *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
General Amnesty To Ease Congestion at Prisons *[Colombo International]* 57

18 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1811140688 [Editorial Report]

Pakistan

Pakistan's People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto said the PPP accepts the results from the 16 November parliamentary elections and she expects to be asked to form the next government, AFP reported.

The PPP won 92 seats in the National Assembly, while the party's main rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, won 54.

Afghanistan

The command of Soviet forces in Afghanistan issued a warning to the mujahidin saying it has taken "additional measures" to put an end to their opposition, adding that if the armed resistance continues to escalate its military activities the command will apply "other military means and use other combat resources at its disposal," TASS reported.

The warning was in response to the recent attack on Kabul airport that killed 10 Soviet soldiers and the attack on journalists that wounded a number of Soviet correspondents.

Palestinian Affairs

TASS announced that the USSR recognizes the "proclamation of a Palestinian state." Falling short of recognizing the State of Palestine, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh urged the convening of an international peace conference as the way for Palestinians to gain a fatherland and for Israel to gain reliable security.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said Egypt's support for the PNC resolutions is "stronger than recognition," MENA reported.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Israeli prime minister's office denied he warned Egypt not to recognize the State of Palestine, but said its doing so would harm the spirit of Camp David, Jerusalem radio reported.

The radio also reported that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the PNC resolutions have not opened the way to peace but have further complicated the situation. He said the PLO's acceptance of UN Resolution 242 is "meaningless" because of its wording.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denied there is any ambiguity in the PLO's acceptance of the resolution, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD reported.

He also warned that if the United States and Israel do not accept the PLO's resolutions he can go back to the PNC and announce that moderation is unfeasible and "God alone" knows the consequences.

The PFLP, the DFLP, and the Palestine Popular Struggle Front welcomed Syria's stand in support of an independent Palestinian state and called for closer ties between Syria and the PLO, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Meanwhile, the PFLP-GC called for 3 days of mourning to demonstrate opposition to the PNC resolutions, Al-Quds Radio reported.

Israel

Labor Party members passed a resolution calling for a halt to contacts with the Likud and expressing a wish to serve in the opposition, according to IDF radio.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that a "secret" team has been set up between the Alignment and the Likud to discuss forming a unity government.

In the territories, the curfew was lifted throughout most of the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported. According to THE JERUSALEM POST, 29 Palestinians were wounded 17 November in West Bank and Gaza Strip clashes.

Lebanon

Kidnapping—The International Committee of the Red Cross announced that it may suspend its activities in Lebanon because of the kidnapping of a Swiss Red Cross offical, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Meanwhile, representatives of nationalist and Islamic parties and forces in Sidon issued a statement condemning the kidnapping and expressing determination to seek the hostage's release, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Military Situation—Radio Free Lebanon reported that due to Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib's appointment as Army commander, the 7th Brigade is in a state of unrest and the 12th Brigade in Sidon is in a "state of mutiny."

The radio also disclosed that the Syrian Army will begin to withdraw from West Beirut and assemble in Khaldah.

Iraq

The London PRESS ASSOCIATION disclosed that three Iraqi diplomats were expelled from Great Britain in October for engaging in activities "incompatible with their diplomatic status." Three UK diplomats were expelled from Iraq in retaliation. According to Radio Monte Carlo, a U.S. diplomat was recently expelled from Iraq because of his "close ties" with the Kurds.

Iran-Iraq Peace Prospects

The exchange of sick and wounded POW's between Iran and Iraq will begin 22 November, INA reported.

In other developments, when asked in a Tehran television interview about Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's announced readiness to sign a peace accord in 10 days, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran is also willing to sign a peace accord if Iraq agrees to fully implement UN Resolution 598. He suggested that so far Iraq has not agreed to implementing the resolution because of "internal problems" that must be resolved first.

Meanwhile, Acting Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told troops in Khuzestan Province that defense forces have to be strengthened because the "enemy is not independent and our real enemies might force him to resume war again," Tehran radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns Against Rejecting PNC Resolutions

JN1811074788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Nov 88 pp 1, 21

[By the AL-ITTIHAD team in Algiers]

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that following the PNC's declaration of an independent Palestinian state the ball is now in the U.S. court. He stressed that the resolutions are clear and "deal firstly with our people's rights and then with others' rights." He added that only God knows the consequences if the Palestinian resolutions are rejected.

Addressing a news conference at the Club des Pins in Algiers yesterday afternoon, hours after the conclusion of the PNC emergency session, 'Arafat added: "What U.S. President-elect George Bush has stated thus far was general remarks, but, nevertheless, a positive step." He added that the PLO seeks peace and the uprising session was also a session for peace if the United States and Israel desire peace.

He added: "We want and strive for peace. We accepted Resolution 242, accompanied by national independence for the sake of peace." Indicating that the Palestinian people adopted this stand from a position of strength, he said: "We [do not] beg for peace but work for it on an equal footing with other parties."

He said: "The PNC has authorized me to work for peace and secure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent Palestinian state."

'Arafat rejected the Israeli Foreign Ministry's statement that the political statement issued by the PNC is ambiguous and speaks in two languages. He asked: "Is it a double language to say we accept Resolution 242 along with our right to a state?" He responded to a question by saying he will largely explain this point at the international conference.

'Arafat indicated that the political statement was moderate, flexible, and realistic, warning that only God knows the consequences if the PNC resolutions were met with rejection and negligence. He said: "Let it be clear that I can always go back to the PNC to tell its members and the Palestinian people that this moderation is unfeasible."

Asked if the government, whose formation has been approved in principle, will comprise Jews, 'Arafat said he has recently received a message from the Jewish Natore Qarta community [pro-Palestinian Israeli religious extremist group] asking for a portfolio in the government. I believe this is "a legitimate right which will be studied by the Palestinian leadership."

Regarding reactions to the declaration of the Palestinian state, 'Arafat stressed there was extreme joy in the occupied territories, adding that the first martyr fell in these territories at dawn yesterday while celebrating the proclamation of the state.

Asked whether the Palestinian declaration really meant the recognition of Israel, he said: "Our resolutions are perfectly clear and they deal firstly with our people's rights and then with others' rights."

Asked about the time the PLO has to wait until it gets a positive U.S. and Israeli reaction, 'Arafat said: "Patience has limits and if we are met with rejection, I will then let actions speak for themselves."

'Arafat described his feelings upon declaring the independence document by saying: "I felt a greater responsibility when I declared that we still had a long road and many sacrifices to offer before this flag can be hoisted over Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state."

Regarding the uprising, 'Arafat stressed that the uprising will continue one wave after another until the Israeli occupation is ended and the state is established. He said he has a detailed program to move on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, together with friends and brothers even after the fall [as published] of others. Hence, he added, the PNC stressed that contacts with the Jewish peace forces should be strengthened.

PLO FRG Envoy Admits Israel's Right To Exist

JN1811075888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] As international support for and recognition of the Palestinian state are continuing, the PLO representative in Bonn said Israel has the right to exist.

He called for dividing Jerusalem into two parts: An Arab part that will be the capital of the Palestinian state and another to remain at the disposal of the Israelis.

PFLP, DFLP, PPSF Welcome Syrian Support

JN1711182488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] In Damascus, three Palestinian organizations have welcomed Syria's stand in support of the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and called for improving ties between the PLO and Syria. The three Palestinian organizations are the PFLP, the DFLP, and the Palestine Popular Struggle Front [PPSF].

In a statement to SANA yesterday, a responsible Syrian source announced Damascus' support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state but voiced reservations on the PNC's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 242.

PFLP-GC Calls for 'Mourning' Over Resolutions

JN1711180488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Nov 88

["Political statement issued by the PFLP-GC inside Palestine" on 17 November]

[Text] O masses of our great people, O people of the blessed uprising. Our heroic Palestinian people, the people of the revolutionary uprising, have proved that the people's will is stronger than all resolutions. The sacred weapons are more powerful than rotten statements, conferences, and resolutions.

Using the sacred stones, our people have written epics of glory and heroism. They have opened new horizons in the Palestinian national march. The blessed uprising has become a revolutionary light, a beacon, and a miraculous movement motivating the masses, gathering the people around the uprising, and awakening the people's conscience.

O people of the uprising and continuous revolutions, O protectors and sons of the sacred land. The plot that is being woven against our people has taken serious dimensions, now that U.S. imperialism and Arab reactionism have found the Palestinian Trojan horse to foil the uprising and strike and pounce on the Palestinian cause. The Algiers PNC resolutions have recognized the Zionist enemy's domination over most Palestinian territory.

O heroic Palestinian people. Palestine is like a single human body; its land cannot be divided. Our one people in the entire Palestinian homeland, from Rafah to Al-Naqurah and from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, are the heart of Palestinian territory.

Therefore, accepting Resolution No 242, which recognizes the Zionist entity, is a serious act of treason affecting the unity of our people and territory and legitimizing our people's stay in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and throughout the world. This step will make our people in the West Bank and Gaza refugees in their own land, which has been given imaginary independence on paper. The aim is to recognize the Zionist enemy.

O heroic Palestinian people; O people of revolutions and the blessed uprising. The sanctity of our land and the blood of our martyrs is calling us. We are called to stand up and denounce the plot—the plot of recognizing the Zionist enemy.

We in the PFLP-GC call for solidarity with all the appeals that have been issued by the national and Islamic forces calling for the declaration of a state of mourning, the raising of black flags, and denunciation of the crime of treason and sellout.

We also call for comprehensive solidarity in all parts of our beloved homeland with the Islamic resistance movement Hamas' call for a 3-day mourning effective tomorrow, Friday.

The following will be days of national mourning: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 18-20 November 1988. Prayers will be held during the days of mourning. Marches will be staged and black flags raised. Let the 3 days be days of indignation and denunciation.

O sons of our Palestinian people. Let us all contribute to promoting the uprising's call for an Arab Palestine in which there is no place for compromisers and renegade defeatists. For the sake of Palestine and Palestinian unity, let all the militant forces unite in the face of the enemy and its agents. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Dated] Palestine, 17 November 1988

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Fatah Dissidents Criticize PNC Decisions

JN1711170688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Central Committee of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council has issued a statement saying: O masses of our Arab nation. O masses of our Palestinian Arab people. O heroes of the gigantic popular revolution in Palestine. The popular revolution in Palestine is approaching its 1st year, crowned with martyrs, sacrfices, fierce confrontations, and victories. The miraculous popular revolution is dealing the strongest slaps to the Zionist entity—shaking it from within and exacerbating its crises—and proving that it is invincible to the enemy's oppressive machine, tyranny, and terrorism.

At the same time, this revolution is correcting a great deal of deviation in the march of the Palestinian revolution and gradually returning things to the sound path, trampling all obstacles and illusions of plotters, disregarding their calculations, and defying their submission and all forms of deviation and decline exercised by the capitulationist conspiratorial circles in the PLO leadership.

Terrified by the greatness of the popular revolution, these circles used all means to contain, obstruct, and prevent it from going beyond the ceiling of that conspiratorial leadership. These circles also attempted to prevent this revolution from wrenching the initiative and transferring the center of revolutionary action to Palestine to create a vivid interaction between the two wings of the Palestinian national action, contrary to the behavior constantly followed by that conspiratorial leadership.

The popular revolution has restored to our pan-Arab cause its vitality and status in the world due to the wide-scale cohesion achieved by the heroic stonethrowers with their Arab brothers and the world. This

cohesion has exposed racist Zionism more than ever before and unveiled its ugly fascist face, thus reformulating our cause in the mind of world public opinion more positively.

This has exacerbated the isolation of the Zionist entity. Through their vanguard force represented by their popular revolution, our people have taken the first step on the path actually leading to victory and placed their hand on the key to resolving the current crisis of the Palestinian revolution.

At this time in particular, when all these things have been achieved, the conspiratorial leadership in the PLO gets flagrantly involved in national treason. Its steps highlight complete readiness to join the imperialist-Zionist scheme of liquidation to the end. It has given all the required national and historical concessions that respond to the imperialist-Zionist terms, hoping to play the role of a tool in the game of liquidation and submission.

All efforts must be united to safeguard and develop the popular revolution, provide all means of steadfastness and continuation for it, and move to higher stages, represented by comprehensive national disobedience leading to the widest armed disobedience. This is to make our people more capable of achieving victory, crushing the invaders, and achieving a historic victory for our pan-Arab issue.

This requires burying the plotters and the policy of bargains and achieving a serious national unity reflecting a creative model for all Palestinian generations and forces enjoying firm pan-Arab nationalist and political support, which constitutes a real pan-Arab consesnsus, not a liquidatory and gambling consensus.

This will only be achieved through a consensus over the popular revolution's objectives and slogans, which are considered a field and daily translation of the National Charter, not its antithesis. Serious work must be exerted to transfer the popular revolution to the Palestine of 1948 and to provide massive Arab support for it against the plots of the agent and conspiratorial regimes and secure a pan-Arab dimension for this revolution.

The Fatah-Revolutionary Council Central Comittee statement says:

From the beginning of the popular Palestinian revolution, the 'Arafatist leadership began presenting its conspiratorial options. We all remember their attempts to form a government-in-exile during the 1st month of the uprising. This was followed by trial balloons, represented by several documents through which they attempted to feel the pulse and propagate and promote their conspiratorial plans and the formulas of the independent moderates who could fit into the Zionist imperialist mold and the plots of the PLO leadership.

These parties exploited the severance of ties [between Jordan and the West Bank] to present their premeditated plans after failing to do this for many months, claiming they wanted to fill the vacuum. They ignored the fact that filling the vacuum cannot come through a treasonous rush, that this vacuum was filled for the first time by the popular revolution since 1967. However, playing on the tune of this vacuum has always been a Zionist policy and a time bomb.

This policy has contributed toward containing the popular uprising and preventing it from playing its pan-Arab role. Instead of working to promote the new balances of power, which were entrenched by the popular revolution, and leaving them to take their proper course, they rushed to exploit the situation and preempt other moves.

The extraordinary PNC, which ended yesterday, clearly indicates the level of degradation they have reached. Our organization, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council, has been aware of their course since 1974. We realized at an early date the destination to which they were heading.

The current developments confirm our correct conclusions, which we drew a long time ago. The Cairo Declaration was not the only indication of their abandoning and denouncing armed struggle and presenting it as a price to appease the imperialists and Zionists.

The Fatah-Revolutionary Council statement continues:

The plotting leadership, led by Yasir 'Arafat and his ilk, exploited many ideological covers to justify and legitimize this open treason. This leadership tried to force others to join it in its degradation, to inflict as much damage as possible, and to end an entire phase with destruction. Therefore, it convened its emergency council—a council which is prefabricated and whose majority has been prepared to play this role for a long time.

This council, as is known, is nothing but a nest for conspirators. It does not remotely represent our people. Its overwhelming majority are representatives of capitulation circles, surrogates of regimes, headmen, and those whose consciences have been bought at the cheapest price. How can it claim to represent the revolution of the stones, the fighters of our people's camps, prisoners, the striving nationalist and Islamic factions, and all of the patriotic and serious trends?

It is a farce much like the Al-Sadat assembly that applauded his disgraceful announcement of his disgraceful trip to Jerusalem. Here is the new Al-Sadat and his prefab council taking the same road, clearly and explicitly making an announcment of kneeling before all the demands of American imperialism on the strength of their belief it has all the cards for a solution.

This is the natural end of all those who turn their backs on the masses, their sacrifices, their potential, and their successes. By announcing in their farcical political declaration that Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 form the basis of the liquidationary international conference, they are burying and blowing up the PLO's National Charter and declaring the actual divorce even with the PLO irrespective of the words they use, in a desecrated and fraudulent fashion, in the manner of a Trojan horse to cause maximum destruction and failure.

Having confirmed their intention to liquidate our people's cause according to the dictates of Zionism and the superpowers, they made a point of adding a few sentences in the margin to sow dust in the eyes and bribe some wavering and oscillating trends and buy at least half their silence as we perceive a half silence or prevarication as real attachment to this destructive line. At such turning points and treasonous slides, such a policy appears laughter-inducing and wretched.

Justifying any stands to safeguard so-called unity and consensus and going so far as to commit treason, it becomes apparent that the overwhelming majority are our nations' masses and the masses of our Palestinian Arab people as well as the revolution of the stones.

No one in his right mind may perceive this majority fabricated in a conspiratorial function as a true majority that deserves to be obeyed on this wretched law. No one is to be obeyed in betraying the homeland and the fate of our people.

In its statement, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council's Central Committee's statement goes on to say:

In what they called the independence document, they have not forgotten to condemn our nation and our people's masses and their pan-Arab and nationalist forces since Al-Qassam and those who followed him who have determinedly rejected the partitionist Resolution No 181.

Using sophistry, these now consider that resolution to be suitable as a basis of conceding the existence of the Zionist entity even though they realize more than others that had our nation and people accepted it then, the consequences would have still been the same. Our masses, therefore, do not want to desecrate all the history of our nation and people and inter the bodies of our martyrs and bury them anew.

Proceeding from all of this—and after the conspirators have taken things to the greatest extent of destruction and isolation; after they have put the popular revolution and its fortress before a difficult test and tried to destroy this fortress from the inside; after no hesitation or justification must be allowed; and after the increase of confidence in our people, in the popular revolution, and in their ability to continue, reject the conspirators, and throw them away—we urge all of our people's national factions, all rank and file cadres and fighters who were let down by their conspiratorial leaders; all Islamic struggling forces; all stones' heroes and their committees; and all of our people's national organizations and their trends and symbols inside and outside to mass their efforts to bury this treason in its cradle, extricate the PLO from their hands, preserve the National Charter, and provide all means of continuation for the popular revolution.

This demands a number of initiatives—the disposition of inability and justifications, the learning from lessons, the arrangement of priorities, and the blaming of those who chose the road of collapse, entrenched the policy of isolation, and abandoned the cause of our people and nation and their struggle. This was clear to us for some time.

Those whose eyes were closed before must see the facts clearly. This also calls for national unity as broad, long, and deep as the popular revolution to protect it, prevent these conspiratorial effects from penetrating into it, and extricate the PLO from the teeth of those conspirators.

The statement issued by Fatah-Revolutionary Council adds: We in the Fatah-Revolutionary Council put all of our resources in the service of such a trend and to face such an unavoidable confrontation against those conspiratorial trends. We put our resources in the service of such a duty, which is a holy duty for every honorable pan-Arabist and nationalist struggler.

At the same time, we hold all those circles and trends and their ilk fully responsibile for their crimes. We warn them that such an excessiveness will not find a paved way before it and that treason will never be allowed to pass or to become a viewpoint, with which one can coexist, accept its language, hold a dialogue, or hear.

We also urge all Arab revolution forces, all Arab nationalist regimes, all honorable progressive forces, and all of our people's friends everywhere to double their support for the popular revolution and to double their isolation and siege of these circles and trends, which are not new in the history of peoples.

There are many examples like them who bargained and fell in the middle of the road. We also urge them not to help them in any way to pass their conspiracy by being deceived by their Palestinian dress. Their poisonous teeth spread conspiracy.

The statement issued by Fatah-Revolutionary Council concludes: The popular revolution has its wedding and conference, which will be held all over the Arab and Palestinian land. It has its voice, which cannot be forged by anyone. No voice can rise above the popular revolution. There is no resolution but that to continue and that of the giant stones' chivalries. All of those have the final and decisive resolution.

Although during the conference held recently in Algiers 'Arafat showed a clear forgery—in meanings, facts, time, place, and the mention of sacred Koranic verses—the masses of our people and nation, headed by the stones' heroes, who are holding the rock and preparing the steeds of war, realize this is the road to take for their cause to reach the shore of victory according to God's saying: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies, of God and your enemies, and others besides, whom you may not know, but whom God does know. [Koranic verses]

Immortality to the pure martyrs of our nation and people. Glory to the revolutionaries of our nation and people. Victory to the stones' heroes. Shame to the conspirators and traitors. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Fatah-Revolutionary Council Central Committee

Palestine Liberation Front Leader Dies

LD1811102988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 18 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Front Tal'at Ya'qub, 45, passed away here yesterday after a severe heart attack. A statement by his organization issued here yesterday said Yaq'ub's death is a grave loss to the PLO and the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories.

The front pledged to continue the struggle of its leaders and to abide by the national goals of the Palestinian people.

Reporters of Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN said they were interviewing him yesterday afternoon when the Palestinian leader apologized for inability to keep on with the interview. He was soon taken to hospital but died before arrival. Yaq'ub was married and had five children.

Egypt

Mubarak Voices Support for PNC Resolutions

NC1711141988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1321 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon said that Egypt supports all the resolutions passed by the PNC in its recent meetings in Algeria, adding that this support is stronger than recognition.

Speaking to journalists following an expanded meeting with his senior aides, Mubarak said that the PNC resolutions are a very good step forward and we support them. Mubarak added that the PNC's acceptance of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 is clear and does not need further elaboration, as some radios claimed.

President Mubarak noted that the PNC has denounced terrorism in its resolutions, which also dealt with the international peace conference, confederation with Jordan, and the borders of the Palestinian state, which were set at the 1967 boundaries. The president said than no resolutions could have been more stimulating to the peace process than the ones that have been passed.

President Mubarak said that international community should aid and encourage the convocation of the international peace conference for resolving the Palestinian issue. As for the mode for Palestinian participation in the conference, this is a matter for the Palestinians to decide in consultation with the Jordanians and the rest of the Arab world, Mubarak asserted.

Asked about the future steps to be taken following the PNC resolutions, Mubarak said: We read the details of these resolutions only yesterday. Before that, all that was available were media reports, and the media sometimes mentions matters that are a bit removed from reality and cite information that may not be accurate.

I read these resolutions in detail, and I found them very good. The political statement was also very good, Mubarak said. He added: What should happen next is consultation between the PLO chairman and His Majesty King Husayn. We should all consult together to determine future steps aiming at the convocation of the international peace conference and leading to a solution.

Mubarak was asked about Egyptian efforts exerted before the PNC session to ensure coordination between the PLO and Jordan and whether the results of these consultations were compatible with the PNC resolutions, Mubarak said: I think that the consultations bore fruit with regard to the PNC resolutions. We have to keep consulting together if we want to reach any positive results concerning the solution of the Palestinian issue. We should make accurate evaluations of the situation and not act separately and in different directions. If this happens, we would disagree, and this would only benefit the adversaries.

Further on Discussions

NC1711165388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Following an expanded meeting held by President Husni Mubarak with senior government officials today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the purpose of the 2 and ½ hour session was to follow up a number of political and economic issues, foremost among them being the PNC resolutions.

Al-Sharif said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has lately received the three official Palestinian documents concerning the declaration of independence, the political statement, and the declaration of the provisional government. The PLO representative in Cairo handed the documents to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak commented during the meeting on the PNC resolutions. The president said that the resolutions were balanced and clearly stated, adding that they would open doors of understanding with all the concerned parties rearding the convocation of the international conference, the acceptance of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and the 1967 borders, and the distinguished ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian nations.

President Mubarak, Al-Sharif said, also referred to future Jordanian-Palestinian ties, the idea of confederation, and the denunciation of terrorism.

President Mubarak stressed Egypt's support of the Palestinian state, all the PNC resolutions, and the Palestinian issue.

The information minister said President Mubarak reviewed arrangements concerning implementation of the Tabah ruling and the developments which are taking place in Washington where an Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. committee is meeting. The committee affirmed in its first session that both Israel and Egypt respect and uphold the Tabah ruling as a final verdict acceptable to both parties and ending the dispute between the two countries.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that arrangements and a timetable for the return of Tabah to full Egyptian sovereignty is currently being discussed and that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is following this issue.

A discussion of internal issues concerning the economic situation followed, Al-Sharif stated. The prime minister explained the economic situation in light of recommendations made at the last cabinet meeting. He elaborated on the issues of foreign currency, the monetary budget, the priorities of using foreign currency in financing needed production, implementation of projects in the

5-year plan, and importation of basic consumer commodities, such as wheat and other foodstuffs. He also discussed the increase in prices of certain imports.

President Mubarak commented on the current talks with the World Bank delegation currently visiting Cairo.

The president discussed a number of obstacles and problems facing Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors attempting to launch new projects or expand existing ones.

The president said the government should amend the existing investment laws so as to eradicate all obstacles and problems, reduce the number of permits required from investors, eliminate red tape, and reduce the number of authorities involved in the issuance of permits. Mubarak called for a draft bill amending the existing laws to be prepared within 2 weeks so that it can be debated as soon as possible at the People's Assembly. [passage omitted]

PNC Chairman, Jerusalem Mufti Arrive in Cairo

NC1711223588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—The PNC chairman, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, accompanied by Jerusalem Mufti His Eminence Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, arrived in Cairo tonight from Algiers after chairing the extraordinary PNC session there.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih and Shaykh al-'Alami will attend during their visit to Cairo the international seminar on the protection of holy places and cultural heritage in Palestine, which starts in Cairo on Saturday [19 November] and lasts several days.

His Eminence Shaykh al-Sa'ih said on arrival that Egypt's stand on the declaration of the Palestinian state is a true Arab one. He added that Egypt's weight and position is great and known. We hope that Egypt will continue its support for the Palestinian people until the establishment of the Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine is achieved.

Regarding the seminar on the holy places, he said that the holy places in Jerusalem and Palestine concern all Muslims and Christians, and we must act as much as we can to protect and liberate them.

PNC Declaration 'Impetus to Peace Efforts'

NC1711153788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMt 17 Nov 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "What Role Do All the Parties Concerned With the Palestinian Issue Play in View of Recent Developments?"]

[Excerpts] If the peace march in the Middle East has been hampered and obstructed as a result of the intransigence of the parties to the dispute, particularly Israel, the recent PNC decisions on proclaiming the independent state and accepting UN resolutions on the issue, starting with Resolution 181 for the year 1947 and ending with Resolution 338 for the year 1973, undoubtedly give an impetus to peace eforts. They also give the green light to countries interested in the issue to work to convene the international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. [passage omitted]

The PNC decision coincided with preparations to form a new Israeli government. Attempts to form such a government still continue and it is hard to predict the final form of this government; whether it will only include the Likud bloc and the hard-line rightist and religious parties, or will be an expanded government embracing the two major political groupings, Likud and Labor. Regardless of its orientation, this new government must, in turn, make fateful decisions similar to, and in line with, those adopted by the PNC. This government must abandon the approach of intransigence and repression and refrain from using force and violence.

Though both Shamir and Peres have rejected the PNC decisions, Israel's interest lies in responding to the new Palestinian developments. For more than 40 years, Israel has tested all means of repression and terrorism against Palestinians, without achieving the desired peace and security.

The only approach not tested by Israel in dealing with the Palestinian issue and the issue of peace is that of initiating a dialogue with the parties concerned with the issue, namely, the representatives of the Palestinian people who are chosen by the people themselves. Israel insists on rejecting any dealings with the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Israel's persistance in its current approach of deterence and intimidation of Palestinians will achieve nothing for Israel. On the contrary, its security will always be threatened, despite the so-called security strips and zone it is establishing.

The Palestinians have taken a well-studied and realistic step to end tension in the region, in the hope of reaching a peaceful and just solution. All Arabs have supported this step. It is now up to the Palestinians to work seriously to gain international support for their stand. It is a must for the Arabs to support any Palestinian effort to achieve this goal.

As for Israel, it has to show its sincere desire to achieve peace, and to translate its continuous claims of wanting peace into concrete actions and decisions to which it commits itself for the sake of peace.

Israel has always claimed that it advocates peace. It is high time to take steps which will protect the entire region against violence and tension. Only then can peace be established and rights returned to those who are entitled to them.

Papers Welcome Proclamation of Palestinian State
NC1611075588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—In their Wednesday editions, Cairo newspapers welcome the PNC's declaration of an independent Palestinian state. They express the belief that this decision will have far-reaching effects in all directions as it constitutes a new historic turning point in the course of the issue and represents a concrete and undeniable fact.

AL-AKHBAR newspaper stresses that the Palestinian people today need serious and strong support from their Arab brothers. There is no longer any room for silence or hesitation, and history will not forgive any vacillation.

The newspaper expects Israel to carry out feverish activity and to commit excesses in contravention of all international norms in a desperate attempt to abort this decisive Palestinian step in the course of the Palestinian struggle.

The newspaper refers to the escalation of the repressive measures to which Israel has resorted recently and to the stepping up of its attacks on the inhabitants of the occupied territories. It also refers to the nervous threats uttered by Israeli military men, threats which reveal a state of hysteria and confusion like that which afflicts a wounded beast seeking frantically to do something to get rid of the dilemma facing it.

Concluding, the newspaper calls for a united and strong Arab stand that will clearly show that the Arab world in its entirety supports this Palestinian decision and will put it into effect immediately. The newspaper also calls on the Arab media to adopt an overall strategy on the international scene to explain the dimensions of the Palestinian issue and expose Israel's brutal practices against the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

In its commentary, the AL-AHRAM newspaper emphasizes that the Palestinian struggle will be strengthened by this decision, which will produce responsible work in channels with which the world has so far been unfamiliar in regard to its outlook on the issue and its dealing with the structure of the movement. This decision will be a landmark for a charted course in the future.

The newspaper says the pretexts to which Israel and the United States still vehemently adhere, such as their absolute rejection of any Palestinian entity and their insistence on not dealing with the PLO or acknowledging Palestinian rights, are no longer justifiable.

The newspaper explains that the weakness of this policy seems clear from the way in which events have unfolded. If the United States has made any dealing with the PLO conditional on the latter's recognition of Israel, how will it be logical to meet this condition at a time when Israel absolutely rejects and constantly suppresses any form of Palestinian entity? And why is prior recognition demanded from one side and not from the other?

Concluding, the newspaper says that absolute rejection or conditional rejection, both of which have been overtaken by events, is totally unacceptable. There is no policy that can remain a sacred cow forever. The changes brought about by events, as time goes on, will inevitably make it outdated. They might also make it ludicrous and an impediment some have imposed upon themselves without justification.

Papers Comment Further on PNC Declaration
NC1811092988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers continue their comments on the PNC declaration of an independent Palestinian state in accordance with the partition resolution issued by the United Nations in 1947. The papers unanimously describe this decision as the most important in the course of the Palestinian political struggle to attain the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The papers say that the decision was a necessary step on the right path toward the attainment of a long-desired objective.

The papers stress that the flames of the Palestinian uprising must continue to blaze, perhaps even more fiercely, in the days to come until the objectives which prompted the uprising have been reached. The papers add that this uprising revealed a fighting and motivated people who want to live in an independent and secure state.

Under the headline "A Positive Decision and Correct Timing," AL-AHRAM says that the Palestinian declaration has come at the right time, now that the whole world has seen, through the uprising in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people's determination to get rid of the abominable Israeli occupation. The paper notes that this declaration followed considerable debate within the Palestinian ranks. This debate bore fruit in the PNC members' majority vote to approve UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 regarding the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and their agreement to continue coordination with Jordan, Egypt, and other Arab states to serve Palestinian national interests.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM emphasizes the need to exert more efforts to urge those parties with influence on the peace drive which have not explicitly supported the Palestinian decision to do so and to attempt to persuade biased parties to change their minds. In this way, international opinion in support of the newly-born state could be secured.

For its part, the AL-AKHBAR says it is no secret that Egypt has been taking the lead for years now in urging the Palestinians to declare a government-in-exile, as a preparatory step for the proclamation of an independent

Palestinian state in the occupied territories. Egypt always thought that this step would help encourage support for the Palestinian people at the international level, and would turn the sympathy the Palestinian issue now enjoys from various countries both in the East and the West into tangible support for one official body that represents all the Palestinians.

The paper adds that there are other liberation movements which embarked on a similar step, such as the Algerian national liberation movement, and this proved helpful in expediting the attainment of self-determination and independence. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH underlines the need for an active Arab role in support of the Palestinian state. The paper notes that 'Arafat will have extremely fierce political battles to fight. He will be confronted with organized and effective Zionist forces worldwide that will do all they can to put obstacles in his way so as to abort and undermine his peace initiative.

For that reason, the paper adds, 'Arafat should not be left alone in the arena of political battles. He should rather be accompanied, and even preceded, by Arab delegations that tour the world capitals as part of an integrated and well-defined campaign to gain more support and momentum, so that all obstacles to the peace drive or reservations expressed by some parties may be cleared away.

In conclusion, the paper says that 'Arafat is expected to make a world tour in an attempt to secure more international support for the newly-born state and change the minds of reluctant parties and those who have reservations about the good intentions of the Palestinians in their quest for a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East crisis, in accordance with the international resolutions.

Paper Stresses Need for U.S. 'Impartiality'

JN1811135688 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
15 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Commitment"]

[Text] No doubt that when Yasir 'Arafat appealed in the PNC to President-elect George Bush to amend the U.S. policy that is biased to Israel, he hit a sensitive regional and world public opinion nerve. This public is bitterly complaining that the U.S. policy—despite principles—is not dealing equally with Israel and the Arabs in general.

This does not naturally mean that the United States should move from one bias to another nor cut short its organic links with Israel, for that is its sovereign right. It means that this link should not be an obstacle to a free U.S. move toward what is correct, right, just, and beneficial. Otherwise, it will be a predicament.

Due to reality, circumstances, and actual practices, the U.S. role has shifted from the role of full partner to that of a mediator who only interferes to gather parties and facilitate negotiations without imposing draft solution. This role has shifted from total commitments which require regional reconciliation within the framework of the international strategic accord.

This itself requires a positive and effective role that is not subject to partial commitments; namely, total bias in Israel's favor and preconditions on the Palestinian side. The best example on these preconditions is the insistence on recognizing Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 before entering into any dialogue even with the United States itself. And while the PLO announced its acceptance of the two resolutions within all of the UN resolutions related to the issue, the American side did not express similar insistence compelling Israel to accept the many UN resolutions pertaining to the issue, irrespective of the contents of these decisions and their merit in terms of the interest of any party.

However, President-elect George Bush made a good gesture during an interview with an Italian newspaper when he said that although the U.S. commitment toward Israel is basic in terms of Israel's reliance on Washington's political, economic, and military cooperation, this does not mean adopting Israel's position in talks with the Arab world.

This means that the American commitment is not a restraint on the freedom of the American behavior in moving to solve the issue. This is exactly what is required and is almost in line with what the Arabs called a long time ago; namely, U.S. commitment to impartiality, objectivity, historic principles, and the positive contribution to the march of a just peace which achieves the interests of all inside and outside the region on equal footing.

Cheysson on Recognition of Palestinian State

JN1511170588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
13 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] In reply to a question on the stand of European countries on the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state following his meeting yesterday with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, EC Commissioner General Claude Cheysson said that there are many European countries which were members in the UN Security Council at the time it issued Resolution No 181 of 1947 on the establishment of two states; a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

He added: France and the United Kingdom are two permanent members in the UN Security Council and had recognized the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Cheysson said that this resolution is binding to the countries which were members, whether they were permanent or nonpermanent members at the time this resolution was passed.

Solidarity Committee Supports Palestinian State

NC1611135688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has declared its support for the PNC decision to declare the Palestinian state.

In a statement issued today, the committee stressed that this wise and bold decision creates practical possibilities for peacefully settling the conflict in the Middle East. It said that this decision places, at the same time, a great burden on the Arab countries, governments, and peoples to exert all efforts to turn the Palestinian state into a living reality. It also places the international community before its responsibility to intensify efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories and to hold the international conference to bring about a comprehensive and just solution that will ensure security and stability for all the countries in the region.

Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, said that the decision to declare the Palestinian state was made in a sound democratic way by the Palestinian groups represented in the PNC. He added that the decision also expresses the will of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Hence, the Egyptian committee's strong support expresses a backing for the Palestinian people's courageous march to restore their legitimate rights.

Sources on Rejection of Israeli W. Bank Plan

PM1811104088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Rejects Israeli Plan for 'Improvement' of Conditions in Occupied Territories"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo that Egypt has rejected a new Israeli plan purporting to "improve conditions in the occupied Arab territories" in return for an end to the Palestinian uprising.

The sources said that the Israeli Government conveyed the plan to Egypt to explore the chances of having Egypt mediate with the PLO leadership and Palestinian leaderships in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to persuade them to accept the plan.

The sources added that the Israeli plan includes readiness to hold municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza, lift the restrictions on transfer of foreign currency to the territories and the return of Palestinian deportees—particularly West Bank and Gaza university professors—and release a number of Palestinian uprising leaders.

The sources believe that aim of the Israeli offer was to influence the PNC and its resolutions on support for the uprising and ways of ensuring its continuity.

The sources say that Israeli officials suggested announcement of the plan in the context of an exchange of letters between the two countries with U.S. participation in the process. Egypt, however, rejected the plan and emphasized that the Israeli Government should honor and implement UN resolutions on protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories and should also implement the Security Council resolutions calling on it to stop its oppressive measures, especially deportation and collective punishment of the population.

U.S. Seeks Freeze of Cooperation With USSR

JN1711120288 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] The United States is trying to convince Egypt to freeze military cooperation with the USSR in the coming phase. It is expected that the exchange of military attaches between Cairo and Moscow will be postponed indefinitely. Egypt obtained from Moscow spare parts for the USSR-made weapons used by the Egyptian Armed Forces. Moreover, the USSR showed readiness to discuss the expansion of military cooperation with Egypt in the coming phase.

AL-WAFD has learned that U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci asked Egyptian officials, during his recent visit 2 weeks ago, to curtail military cooperation with the USSR to ensure the secrecy of U.S. military technology employed in Egypt.

Development of Cooperation With USSR Viewed

NC1811100188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, 18 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that the next stage will witness a tremendous development, both qualitative and quantitative, in the field of economic cooperation and trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Cooperation between the two countries will for the first time involve the establishment of joint ventures with the participation of the Egyptian private sector. Some of these ventures will be confined to the production of machine-made carpets and clothing for export purposes only. Other projects will entail the production of packaging for medicines, cosmetics, paints, and toothpaste.

According to official Soviet sources, the next stage will see the expansion of economic and trade cooperation. The two countries will opt for new models of cooperation in accordance with the policy of reconstruction and the

changes introduced in Soviet laws to encourage investment and joint ventures. These sources maintained that the USSR attaches great importance to cooperation with the Egyptian private sector in the establishment of a number of joint projects.

The sources pointed out that 120 Soviet companies have been permitted to set up joint projects with foreign companies, operating with capital of 500 million rubles, which is equivalent to $900 million. Furthermore, the cooperatives sector has been permitted to hold direct contact with foreign companies to benefit from their expertise.

Informed Egyptian sources in Moscow noted that the debts arising from bilateral economic cooperation, such as the High Dam and other industrialization projects, will be settled next year, without any postponement, now that an agreement for the repayment of Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union has been reached on satisfactory terms. Several cooperation agreements covering various other matters, such as an increase in the 1987 trade volume by 50 percent by the year 1990, have also been signed.

In a statement to MENA, Mahmud al-'Arabi, chairman of the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, said that a symposium was held in Moscow last week, which was attended by 65 Egyptian businessmen. Ways of promoting cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Egyptian busines sector, the establishment of a number of joint ventures, and the role of the chambers of commerce in providing the economic data needed for the businessmen and companies were discussed at the sumposium, Al-'Arabi said.

He stated that it had been agreed to hold another seminar in Cairo in March to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of bilateral trade. The seminar will also discuss the role of barter deals in implementing the protocol signed between the two countries in May, ways of acquainting the two peoples with the products of each other's country, increases in the price of Soviet commodities, and Soviet circles' inadequate information on recent developments in Egyptian industry.

Diplomatic Sources Cited on Ties with Algeria

PM1611120288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Informed Egyptian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Better Relations With Algeria and Contacts To Increase Cooperation"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the next few days will witness improvement in Algerian-Egyptian relations with the return of Egyptian Ambassador Husayn Ahmad Amin to Algiers to take up his post there and the appointment of Elhashmi Qaddouri as the new Algerian ambassador to Cairo.

According to the same sources, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received a memorandum from the Egyptian ambassador indicating that Algeria is willing to intensify cooperation with Egypt, wants Egyptian teachers and university professors to teach in Algeria and Algerian students to study in Egypt, and is prepared to conclude an deal with Egypt worth $20 million.

The memorandum also confirmed Algeria's interest in the reopening of the offices of the respective news agencies in both capitals and its willingness to hold an Egyptian cultural week in Algeria and participate in all African conferences held in Cairo.

Diplomatic reports from Cairo say that the development of relations between the two countries stems from the fact that a great number of Algerian officials are aware of the importance of bolstering relations with Egypt.

Ambassador Badawi Speaks to UN General Assembly

NC1711213188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] United Nations, 17 Nov (MENA)—Egypt's permanent UN representative, Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, called on Israel to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, to withdraw from the occupied territories, and to enter into direct negotiations with the concerned parties—as called for by the Security Council resolutions—within the framework of an international conference for a settlement in which the Palestinian people's representatives will take part.

In his speech today to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, which is debating Israeli practices in the occupied territories, Ambassador Badawi said Egypt stresses that the seventh Geneva convention on the protection of civilians in times of war must be applied to all the occupied Arab territories until a political settlement of the principal problem is reached. He added that Egypt believes Israel's evasion of its obligations in this respect is a violation of its contractual commitments, a matter that raises doubts about Israel's true intentions.

Ambassador Badawi called on the international community not to shirk its responsibility to seek to convince Israel of the need to respect the Geneva convention and to renounce the policy of repression and human rights violations.

In his speech, the Egyptian envoy said the recent PNC resolutions are historic. He added that these resolutions open the way for real peace opportunities. He reiterated

Egypt's view that the Palestinian side has thus taken the necessary step to give an impetus to the peace efforts on the basis of the principles agreed on by the international community.

Ambassador Badawi added: Egypt believes that the establishment of the Palestinian state is an important step toward reaching a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis in agreement with all the parties to the conflict in order to achieve security and stability in the region. He added that the declaration of the Palestinian state requires efforts by all the peace-loving forces to bring the two parties to the conflict nearer and to achieve mutual recognition between them in a manner that will open the way for negotiations that will lead to peace and good-neighborliness.

Concluding his speech, the Egyptian UN envoy said the Middle East and the Palestinian issue are going through an extremely sensitive stage and that this requires today, more than ever before, a realization by Israel's leaders that the use of violence or gases, the demolition of houses and villages, the burning of crops, and collective punishment will not bring a feeling of security to the Israeli people and will not uproot the uprising, but will lead to an intensive crisis of conscience in Israel and strengthen the extremist and confrontational trends.

Badawi called on Israel—the party that has the arms and state, that rules over the land, and is trying to impose a fait accompli—to extend its hand to the Palestinian people's sons in recognition of facts and in line with legitimate principles.

Columnist Urges Halt to Jewish Tourism

JN1611151088 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 88 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Has the time come to close the file on Jewish tourism in Egypt? Eight years of this tourism affirm that Egypt's interests have been harmed a great deal. Jewish tourism has not offered anything to Egypt. Israel is stealing tourists from Egypt because it organizes tourism between the Pyramids and the so-called Wailing Wall, takes the lion's share, and leaves a big zero for Egypt.

Only worthless tour companies in Egypt which do not find respectful clients deal with the Jewish tourists. Moreover, the Jews' tourism is useless because they stay in cheap hotels and try to dishonestly get back what they pay from Arab tourists or from the Egyptians. The Jews do everything, but pay nothing.

Jewish tourism constitutes only 10 percent of tourism in Egypt—a percentage we can dispense with because, reports say, it is useless. In addition, this tourism has become dangerous following the spread of smuggling, forgery, and espionage by the Jewish tourists. Some tourism reports describe Jewish tourism as an organized and flagrant infiltration of the Egyptian economy and national security.

The reports also say that 76 percent of currency smuggling and counterfeiting is conducted by Jews. They are also the main source of heroin, and they invent effective methods for this purpose. For example, they put it into toothpaste tubes. Other means were discovered. I do not rule out that the Israeli Government itself is supervising the forgery and smuggling operations because it wants to undermine Egypt from inside after it failed to invade it from outside.

The strange thing is that the Jews go to the communities of the Arabs and Egyptian intellectuals and speak in the dialect of Bilad al-Sham [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine] to deceive the listeners. If the Jew is discovered, he will be left after he speaks whatever he likes. What is stranger than this is to see some employees of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo participate in these crimes. Some Israeli rabbis even commit these crimes under the slogan of religion.

Espionage is another issue. Some of Israel's espionage attempts have been discovered; other attempts have not yet been discovered. And the Israeli Embassy, of course, supervises these operations. It sometimes even forges passports to smuggle agents who have been discovered. The file of Israel's crimes is getting larger. Each country has the right to allow and prevent foreigners from entering the country. It also has the right to expel those who are considered a threat to its security. Egypt has the right to exercise this right, particularly since the file has become large and since governmental sides in Israel stand behind this.

Libya

Hungary's Deputy Foreign Minister Visits 12 Nov

LD1211222788 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Nov, (JANA)—The Deputy Foreign Minister of Hungary Dr Gabor Nagy and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Nagy asserted, in an interview with JANA on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport, the identity of viewpoints between Great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Hungary. He said "our stances and appreciations of the current and important issues are identical and we see it necessary to intensify contacts and raise them to the highest levels between the secretariat of the General People's Congress and the Hungarian Parliament and experts in all fields."

He added "We hope that these visits will contribute to bolstering cooperation by signing a number of accords."

The deputy foreign minister reiterated the solidarity of the People's Republic of Hungary and its people for the Libyan Arab people who realised historic achievements in the short period of the revolution.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends People's Committee Session
LD1611220588 Tripoli JANA English 1814 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the Chadian Ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah Brahim Mahammat Tidei.

The leader of the revolution today also attended part of the proceedings of the session of the General People's Committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Siad Barre
LD1711234588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Somalia. The secretary handed the brother leader of the revolution a message from the Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Beninese Envoy 15 Nov
LD1511105788 Tripoli JANA in English 0806 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 14, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Malim A. Eddi, member of the Central Committee of the Benin People's Party, the supervisor of economic affairs, and an envoy of President Ahmed Kerekou, who handed him a letter from the president of the People's Republic of Benin.

Mauritania

Black Opposition Member Dies in Wallata Prison
AB1211112888 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Nov 88

[From the "Saturdays Only" program]

[Text] It has been confirmed in Mauritania that a former minister of health, Djibo Tafsirou, died last month in the notoriously harsh prison of Wallata, southeast of the capital, Nouakchott. Informed sources said the ex-minister died of tuberculosis. While others have died at the prison, Tafsirou's demise might provoke something of a stir because he was a political prisoner. Sheba Kaye in Nouakchott has been investigating. He telexed us this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] The death of Tafsirou comes after three other prison deaths last September. After that, the Mauritanian head of state ordered the opening of an inquiry about the situation in the prison and official sources say the people responsible were punished.

Tafsirou, who was a minister in the first cabinet formed when Colonel Taya came to power in 1984, was arrested with other civilian members of the Black African Liberation Movement after they distributed a document entitled "The Black African Manifesto." In this document, they accused the regime of being racist and called for a black Mauritania. They also distributed tracts saying that Arabs were invaders who occupied the black African land and that they should go back to Yemen, where they came from.

Tafsirou and his colleagues in prison were in the civilian wing of the black Mauritanian movement, based now in Dakar without official Senegalese authorization. The military wing of this movement launched an abortive coup last year. Three of its leaders were sentenced to death. The others received punishment from 5 years to lifelong imprisonment. [end recording]

Recognition of Palestinian State Declared
LD1611232888 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Nov 88

["Text" of statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, issued 15 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The PNC at its extraordinary session in Algiers adopted a resolution declaring an independent Palestinian state on the land of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania welcomes this resolution and declares its recognition of this independent Palestinian state, hoping that this historic event will constitute a contribution to the promotion of peace in the Middle East and the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the struggling Palestinian people.

Head of State Receives PRC Economic Delegation
AB1311104488 Nouachott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, yesterday morning received the Chinese delegation at the first session of the Joint PRC-Mauritania Commission for Economic and Trade Cooperation. The Chinese delegation was led by (Wei Yuming), the Chinese vice minister of economic relations with foreign countries. Present at the audience were Mohamed Ould Nany, minister of economy and finance, our ambassador to Beijing, and the Chinese ambassador to Nouakchott.

After the audience, the PRC vice minister told the press that he conferred with the head of state on matters of bilateral cooperation, adding that he briefed the head of state on the outcome of the joint session. He also told Col Taya that his country was prepared to assist Mauritania in all fields. He further observed that our country has achieved great successes under the leadership of Col Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya. He expessed thanks to the Mauritanian Government and people for the generous hospitality accorded him and members of his delegation.

The joint session ended yesterday. The Chinese delegation then used the morning to visit Nouadhibou, where it inspected the installations of the CISELM [expansion unknown], the Algeria-Mauritania fishing company, and the Nouadhibou Port Authority. The members of the delegation were briefed on the functioning of these companies.

Sudan

Joint SPLA-DUP Statement on Accord

EA1711205988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1342 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Joint statement of the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) read by Captain Nyal Deng Nyal at a news conference in Addis Ababa on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] The Sudanese Peace Initiative, Preamble [subtitle]

Inspired by the deep understanding of the suffering of the Sudanese masses who are yearning for genuine peace and stability, committed to the unity of the people and territorial integrity of the country, rejecting the old policies that aim at escalating the war, destruction, and deprivation in all forms—policies that will ultimately lead to disunity—resolute in the necessity of persistent efforts to consolidate and enrich democratic practice within the beloved Sudan, convinced that genuine peace in Sudan cannot be attained in the context of the so-called southern problem, but on the appreciation that the problem is naturally ethnic in nature, and hence, its resolution is only possible through a serious, sincere, and continuous dialogue among the Sudanese political forces on an equal basis in the proposed national constitutional conference. Now therefore the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP part after frank and sincere discussion and exchange of views at this critical juncture in our country's history hereby agreed to conclude this agreement:

A. Cognizant of the fact that the convening of the national constitutional conference is an urgent national necessity, that demands of all the Sudanese political forces' sincere and persistent efforts to bring about a conducive atmosphere for the convening of the conferfence [as heard], the two parties are totally convinced that the basic and necessary prerequisites to create this conducive atmosphere are:

1. Although the firm stand of the SPLM-SPLA remains the repeal of the September 1983 laws and to be replaced by the 1974 laws [as heard], it nevertheless and because of keenness to convene the national constitutional conference has at this stage agreed with DUP that in the period preceding the convening of the national constitutional conference all the provisions involving the Hudud and related articles that are contained in the September 1983 laws be frozen and that there shall be no legislation on any laws that contain such articles until the national constitutional conference is held and final agreement is reached on the alternative laws.

2. The abrogation of the military pacts concluded between Sudan and other countries and which infringe on Sudan's sovereignty.

3. The lifting of the state of emergency.

4. Cease-fire.

B. A national preparatory committee shall be convened to agree on the draft agenda, place, and the procedures of holding the national constitutional conference. The first meeting of this committee shall take place soon after its formation.

C. The two parties have agreed that the venue of the national constitutional conference shall be at a place agreed upon by the national preparatory committee where security is guaranteed to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned.

D. The two parties have agreed on the necessity of holding the national constitutional conference by 31 December 1988, provided that the prerequisites mentioned in this agreement have been implemented to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

E. The two parties call upon all the Sudanese political forces to immediately join this sincere national effort so as to bring about peace and stability in our country.

Signing this day, 16 November 1988, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dr John Garang de Mabior, chairman of SPLM and commander in chief of SPLA

Al-Sayyid Muhammad al-Mirghani, leader of the DUP party

Armed Forces Gain 'Full Control' of Fronts

EA1711214588 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Last week our Armed Forces gained full control of all fighting fronts in the southern regions as a result of active operations there. The Air Force very successfully bombed most of the areas, particularly those remote

small places, Keyala, Ikoto, and Katiri, which had been captured by remnants of the rebels. When the Air Force bombed the rebel troop concentrations the rebels fled. Following the successful Air Force operations, areas in the Upper Nile region received supplies.

In addition, the forces at Nasir then succeeded in successfully carrying out large-scale operations, routing five outlaw battalions deployed in the area, most of whose men fled, abandoning their weapons. The fate of the five battalions was as follows: 135 fighters defected from Moon Battalion and 60 from Moon [as heard] Battalion, abandoning their weapons. Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Gawig Wal was forced to join the friendly forces with all those under his command. His forces then began attacking the outlaw forces, patrolling and mopping up the pockets of rebellion remaining in the area.

As for Manyiel Battalion, 142 of its men were killed; 200 men of the Chuol Maying Battalion were killed. Another battalion withdrew from northern Nasir to the (Chan Tot) forces area. The headquarters of these remnants, concentrated around Nasir, lost 250 men killed and wounded. Captain (Gargov Wani) with 180 men from 104 and 105 Battalions of Al-Zaraf Island joined the friendly forces together with another 5 from the forces of the defector Gordon Kong.

As for Bahr al-Ghazal region, our forces have patrolled the areas around Waw town, where the forces of the outlaws have disappeared completely. In the (Iriyat) area the forces of the heroes of (Iriyat) on 13 November attacked Majok camp 7 km south west of (Iriyat). The camp was totally destroyed and 50 outlaws were killed and 150 were wounded. Our forces captured two Kalashnikov assault rifles and quantities of various ammunition.

The forces of Tonj attacked Koro, 11 km on the Waw-Tonj road. Twelve rebels were killed and 36 were wounded. The camp was destroyed and five Kalashnikov assault rifles and quantities of ammunition were captured.

In Equatoria the forces are carrying out operations around Nimule. Three outlaws were killed in an operation on 14 November. Our forces patrolling the Liria and Farajok area destroyed an enemy artillery crew of seven under the command of a lieutenant on 12 November. Fogi camp near Farajok was attacked and destroyed this week. Our forces encountered resistance when they were patrolling the Bor area and around Juba town.

Al-Mirghani Seeks 'Fraternal' Support for Army

EA1611222788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, has reassured himself about the security situation in the country and the progress of operations in the south in a meeting with Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and Gen Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

In a press communique, Gen 'Abd al-Majid said the Armed Forces are carrying out successful operations and are in full control of the situation, particularly in the eastern Equatoria area which is experiencing relative tranquillity between our Armed Forces and the remnants of the outlaws. Our forces have repulsed all the rebel attempts and contained the situation on all fronts. Gen 'Abd al-Majid said intensive efforts to strengthen our Armed Forces would be made.

In this framework, Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani promised to contact friendly and fraternal countries to supply the necessary support to our Armed Forces to enable them to fully carry out their duties in the coming stage. Mr al-Mirghani expressed his thanks for the successful Armed Forces operation in rescuing the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and the detainees.

AL-SAFIR Interviews Communist Party Leader

NC1711112088 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Nov 88 p 3

[Interview with Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party, by Samih Sa'b in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sa'b] how do you assess the ongoing talks between the Democratic Unionist Party and the leader of the southern rebels on reaching an agreement to end the civil war?

[Nuqud] These talks are of particular importance since the Unionist Party is the second partner in the Sudanese coalition government, which is formed by three parties under the Al-Ummah Party's chairmanship. The unionists have not taken part in the previous talks with the John Garang-led rebels. The leaders of all the Sudanese parties, with the exception of the Unionist Party, participated in the 1986 talks with Garang. Furthermore, the talks have come at a time when the voices of those calling for a military solution to the problem and those saying that no agreement can be reached with Garang have become louder.

The Islamic National Front, for instance, demands that a law be enacted charging anyone who contacts Garang with high treason. This position is rejected and cannot be implemented, because this war will end only because of a political decision. The Sudanese Army will not be able to end the guerilla war led by Garang nor will Garang's troops be able to wipe out or defeat the Sudanese Army. Furthermore, the reasons that started the war are political, and these causes can only be uprooted by a political decision. This is what the political parties reached in 1986 in what is known as the declaration of Koka Dam, referring to the Ethiopian village in which the meetings were held. [passage omitted]

I believe that the Addis Ababa talks could signal a step toward peace, despite the objections voiced by the third partner in the coalition government, the Islamic Front,

which calls for dealing with Garang as a foreign enemy and a traitor who must be wiped out. They know that a military victory cannot be accomplished, but they want a kind of political solution in which Islamic rule would have the upper hand; that is, they want to deal with Garang from the viewpoint of an Islamic state.

There is a regional factor involved as well. The rebes move from Ethiopian territory, while the anti-Ethiopian forces move from Sudanese lands. Therefore, it is difficult to achieve a political solution without an equation that bolsters peace in the Horn of Africa. For this reason, Ethiopian-Sudanese relations must be remedied on the basis of good neighborliness and all activity hostile to the Sudanese Government launched from Ethiopian territory subsequently must end. Likewise, all anti-Ethiopian activity launched from Sudanese territory must be stopped by the Sudanese Government. In addition, Ethiopia must find a solution to the Eritrean problem by talking with the Eritreans.

We in the Communist Party believe that the problem of the south is indivisible from the Sudanese issue as a whole. This problem is basically due to backwardness, vestiges of colonialism, and failure to eliminate the legacy left by Ja'far Numayri's regime, along with unbalanced development. And it must be admitted there are many religious, cultural, and ethnic groups. The political, economic, and social supremacy of the Arab Islamic successors in the northern Sudan government departments does not give them the right to impose their sovereignty on the rest of the ethnic groups of black African origin in western and northeastern Sudan.

Sudan is a country of many ethnic groups. Therefore, the national ethnic issue must be resolved. I would like to be more explicit: The solution is neither simple nor easy and it has no ready perscription or slogan. What has happened in Karabakh, Armenia, Lithuania, and Estonia makes it obvious that solutions to ethnic issues, sentiments, and lack of equality among ethnic groups are not all that easy.

[Sa'b] How do you envision a solution to the present prevailing situation in Sudan?

[Nuqud] The solution should begin with a cease-fire and the convening of a constituional conference. The results of this conference should be accorded the strength of a constitution. In our view, this is only the beginning of the road. This partially applies to Lebanon at present. Even if a national democratic solution is implemented, it does not mean that all problems have ceased and that we should go to sleep reassured and relaxed. The conflict in Sudan will not end now. All we are trying to do is have this conflict assume a political character instead of a military one.

[Sa'b] Where do the Sudanese parties stand with regard to the agreement between the Unionist Party and Garang?

[Nuqud] The Unionist Party has moved to supporting instead of opposing the Koka Dam Declaration, which it had not recognized before. As for the Islamic Front, it has not approved of the Koka Dam Declaration at all, even though it had entered into discussions with the rebels and reached a certain kind of general framework of an agreement. It has not signed the Koka Dam Declaration, however, and objects to the Unionist Party-Garang talks.

As for the Al-Ummah Party, it has signed the Koka Dam agreement, but it is not satisfied with the Unionist Party's talks at present, purely for party reasons. Al-Mahdi is now more inclined toward a military solution, but he has not severed his relationship with the peaceful solution.

As for the other political forces in the north and south, they generally approve of the peaceful solution and of Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's negotiations with Garang. What concerns us is the fact that the Al-Mirghani-Garang negotiations do not constitute the final peaceful solution, despite their obvious importance, but are a step on the general path. They should be welcomed and followed up. [passage omitted]

[Sa'b] Will you participate in the negotiations?

[Nuqud] Yes. We had taken part in the Koka Dam negotiations and we signed the declaration issued at the end of these negotiations. We also held bilateral talks with the leaders of the Popular Army for the Liberation of Sudan. Therefore, we will participate in any negotiations embracing all parties. All we ask is that these negotiations should be prepared well in advance and that lengthy preliminary talks should precede the negotiations so the issue will not become one of gains, party oneupmanship, and slogans.

[Sa'b] How do you assess Sudanese-Ethiopian relations at present?

[Nuqud] Al-Mahdi sent an envoy to hold talks with Ethiopian leaders not long ago. The government declared that the talks held in Addis Ababa were successful. A high-level Ethiopian delegation will visit Sudan within the next few weeks to draft a formula that will keep the two countries in a state of goodneighborliness and joint cooperation to solve the Eritrean problem and end the civil war in the south. This is possible because the two countries are poverty-stricken and afflicted by starvation, drought, and desertification.

Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese are emigrating to Ethiopia, and vice versa, because of the ongoing war. Therefore, it would be useful for the two countries to cooperate with understanding and rationalism, because if the war in south Sudan does not end, it will be quite difficult for this country to develop and

enjoy stable democratic rule and resolve its food problems. The same applies to Ethiopia. The war is draining all of both countries' ability to resolve their problems. [passage omitted]

[Sa'b] How do you view relations between Sudan and Libya?

[Nuqud] The relations between Sudan and Libya are distinguished in view of Tripoli's role in opposing the Numayri regime and in giving support to national front parties—the three ruling parties at present. Tripoli had secured training camps for these parties and supplied them with arms. It has even transported members of these parties across the desert to Sudan, even to Khartoum where they waged military battles against the Numayri regime. We will not forget this Libyan assistance. Furthermore, Libya assisted Sudan and supplied it with oil even after the revolt [against Numayri].

[Sa'b] What is your position toward Sudan and Libya's draft unity document?

[Nuqud] We reject this draft unity document not because we are against unity. But we reject it for objective reasons. We believe the Sudanese parties which signed the draft unity document have their own tactical and temporary motives. Al-Mahdi has realized this and said the draft unity document is not binding and that the matter is still subject to discussion.

[Sa'b] How do you assess relations between Sudan and Egypt?

[Nuqud] I believe there is some improvement in these relations due to the special status between the two countries. As a communist party, we differ with the Egyptians over the issue of Camp David and over some of their policies. However, daily events are proceeding well between Egypt and Sudan, but the presence of Numayri in Egypt constitutes a provocation to the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali, Baccouche Meet With PLO's 'Arafat

LD1611131488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this afternoon at the Republican Palace in Carthage PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and PLO Representative in Tunisia Hakim Bal'awi.

Further on Meeting

LD1711022788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this afternoon Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who thanked the head of state for allowing Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister, to attend the PNC meetings on the day of the declaration of independence so the joy could be Palestinian, Algerian, and Tunisian on behalf of the entire Arab nation.

Mr 'Arafat also thanked President Ben Ali for Tunisia's recognition of the Palestinian independent state and for playing host to the PLO and its leadership. He then presented him with a comprehensive account of the meetings and the future strategy.

Mr 'Arafat said the head of state showed interest in coordinating efforts in this field with a view to beginning action on Arab and international levels, particularly at the UN, in view of Tunisia's standing both in Europe and the UN and with African countries, nonaligned states, Islamic states, and other regional and Arab circles.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat offered President Ben Ali a copy of the Holy Koran which had the verse on holy Jerusalem inscribed on its cover.

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit of Iran's Besharati

Arrives 9 Nov

JN0911182288 Manama WAKH in English 1614 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, Nov 9 (GNA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati and his accompanying delegation arrived here from Doha today on a visit to Bahrain.

During the visit the Iranian official will deliver a message to H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Gives Message to Amir

JN1011113988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 10 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a mesage from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with a number of issues of interest to both countries, particularly developments of the ongoing Iraq-Iran peace negotiations in Geneva. These negotiations aim to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The message also deals with building security and stability in the Gulf region for the wellbeing and prosperity of the regional states and for enhancing and promoting relations between the two countries.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, conveyed the message when his highness the amir of Bahrain received him this morning. WAKH has learned that his highness the amir of Bahrain welcomed the Iranian initiative on condition that contacts and consultations continue between the two countries to serve the march of fraternal peace in the region. His highness the amir of Bahrain asked the Iranian envoy to convey a similar message to the Iranian president.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry assistant under secretary for immigration and passports affairs; and Hoseyn Naraqiyan, Iranian charge d'affaires to Bahrain. The Iranian deputy foreign minister arrived in Manama last night during his current tour of the region.

Talks With Foreign Minister

JN1011125788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1002 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 10 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, met here today with 'Ali Muhammad Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister, currently visiting Bahrain. They discussed the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region, particularly those related to the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations in light of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, ways to enhance relations between the two countries, and issues of mutual interest.

Departs for UAE

JN1011145888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1352 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 10 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left Manama for the UAE this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the State of Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

During his visit, the Iranian official conveyed a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, on bilateral relations, ways to enhance and develop them, the ongoing Geneva Iraq-Iran peace negotiations, current regional developments, and issues of common interest.

Kuwait

ARAB TIMES Welcomes PNC's 'Right Decision'

JN1711211288 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Nov 88 p 6

[Editorial: "A Right Decision at the Right Time"]

[Text] Had what PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared today been done 10 years ago, the position of the Palestinians would certainly be better now. Nevertheless, it is definitely better to start late than not to start at all.

Those who followed the discussions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) during the past few days must have felt that despite their contradictions, all were in line with the present conditions prevailing in the world arena. More importantly there was no political "trading." The resolutions of the PNC that 'Arafat succeeded in passing conform with requirements of the big countries and those parts of the world who regrettably can bring justice or oppression to people looking for their freedom.

Previously, when Israel was speaking to the international community, to which it had easy access, it claimed that 'Arafat and his Palestinian people did not want peace. This, they said, was evident because they did not recognise the United Nations (UN) resolutions. Israel further claimed that when they themselves sometimes rejected UN resolutions, this opposition never included rejections for peace. Although such duplicity in policy is vicious, it is certainly supported by the Jews of the world. In a direct way, Israel was using 'Arafat's rejection of UN Security Council resolutions and, by describing him as a terrorist, wanted the world to view "terrorism" as a Palestinian entity.

The PNC resolutions and 'Arafat's statements on terrorism came at the appropriate time—the whole world is ripe for it. The U.S. is now talking about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is rejecting the proposal for an international peace conference.

The U.S. press has started asking why the U.S. should bear the burdens of Israel and why Israel should interfere in U.S. internal affairs. They are now talking about the Zionist influence in the USA and why Israel made the U.S. lose the huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

'Arafat has succeeded in showing that he wants true peace and is against terrorism. He also convinced the PNC about what he believes to be true. 'Arafat also proved that his PNC is the assembly of the present times and that its "political adolescence and immaturity" had ended.

The Palestinians have proved their political maturity and are represented by all factions, left and right wing. All sections of Palestinians are now certainly more aware of what is needed in the next stage. They have become more aware of how to deal with and address international political thinking, which was once unjust to them and which is the one best qualified to redress these injustices.

PDRY

Paper Interviews Nu'man on U.S., USSR Ties

PM1011115888 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Nov 88 p15

[Interview with Prime Minister Sa'id Nu'man by Nura Fakhuri in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Fakhuri] Both the Yemeni and U.S. sides have recently made statements welcoming and paving the way for reestablishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, provided the causes which had led to their severance 20 years ago are eliminated. Why is that, and is there an attempt to restore these relations?

[Nu'man] In the PDRY our foreign policy is based on peaceful coexistence between the various social systems and on nonalignment and nonintervention in domestic affairs. We established relations with all states in the world, except South Africa and Israel because they are racist regimes. In that context we had relations with Washington until 1968, when we discovered that the United States, or at least its ambassador, was connected with the coup attempt by Armed Forces officers on 20 March.

Relations were severed then and no attempts were made to restore them, but now a resumption of relations is being raised in various forms. We have one main precondition for establishing relations with any state: noninterference in our domestic affairs and choice of regime. Once that is fulfilled there will be no reason why relations should not be restored.

[Fakhuri] Why has the file on restoration of relations been reopened at this particular time? What are your terms? Have there been any official preparatory meetings in this connection, or have contacts been made through mediators or third parties?

[Nu'man] Reopening the file on restoration of relations now is the natural thing to do. What is more important is that this step be viewed in the context of our concept of relations with any state based on noninterference in our domestic affairs.

[Fakhuri] In other words, do you not want the restoration of PDRY-U.S. relations to be interpreted as a renunciation of your socialist option and your alliance with a particular bloc?

[Nu'man] There is no connection between the two. The United States has diplomatic relations with socialist states but has not changed the alliances of these states.

[Fakhuri] Who sought a restoration of relations, you or the American side, and how was the file reopened?

[Nu'man] The issue has not been raised officially yet, but the press has apparently played some part.

[Fakhuri] Has it been raised unofficially?

[Nu'man] We talk in an unofficial context.

[Fakhuri] Are there other conditions for restoring relations with the United States, such as aid, long term loans, or joint development projects?

[Nu'man] In fact we have talked in some detail about the U.S. role in the region and its position on the Palestinian question. We must view these matters in a wider context. The basis of diplomatic relations with any state except Israel and South Africa is noninterference in our internal affairs.

[Fakhuri] The PDRY enjoys good relations with the Soviet Union and it has a socialist system. Has the Soviet Union been consulted about a restoration of relations with the United States, and would PDRY-U.S. relations affect the Yemeni-Soviet alliance?

[Nu'man] We have special and strategic relations with the Soviet Union which supported the PDRY politically and economically in most difficult times. The Soviet Union does not interfere in matters of restoring relations with any state. Our relations with the Soviet Union are honest relations based on a common vision and will not be affected by such a step. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] Some voices in Aden reject this new approach and favor a return to more intransigent or hardline policies. How will you tackle these voices?

[Nu'man] First, the new policy we are pursuing is a policy approved by the party after a long democratic dialogue and in-depth discussion of international changes and of Arab and regional realities. Since 13 January 1985 we have been following different ways of addressing the Yemeni people and we have overcome the superficiality in tackling public opinion and replaced it with freedom of expression on all vital issues of public interest.

I do not believe that everything the party Central Committee says is correct. There must be open dialogue with the people to achieve a mature political stance on all vital issues. This is why it was necessary to conduct dialogue within the party and then with the public. That is what happened and it is reflected in our domestic and foreign policies. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Departs for OPEC Meeting 17 Nov

LD1711235688 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Nov, SPA—His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, left Riyadh this morning for Vienna to lead the Kingdom's delegation to the joint meeting of OPEC's prices and long term strategy committees, to begin this evening. His excellency will also lead the Kingdom's delegation to the two ministerial meetings of OAPEC and OPEC to convene in Vienna on 20 and 21 November.

The meeting will discuss the ceiling for 1989 oil production and will stress adherence to that ceiling, the quotas, and the rectification of oil market conditions to secure better levels of cooperation and increased stability. In a statement to SPA, Minister Nazir expressed hope that these meetings will result in clear and firm decisions to ensure stability of the oil market through full abidance by of production quotas and prices that serve the interests of all.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has repeatedly announced that it desires to abide by the production level fixed by OPEC if all other members agrees to return to and maintain their fixed quotas.

United Arab Emirates

Federal Council Supports Palestinian State

JN1711124888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Nov (WAKH)—The UAE Federal National Council [FNC] has expressed absolute support for the proclaiming of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. This came in a cable sent by FNC Speaker Hilal Ahmad Lutah to PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. In his cable, Lutah also expressed the Council's pride in this great historic event—a crowning of the Palestinian people's valiant struggle, of their martyrs and sacrifices, and of their blessed popular uprising.

AL-ITTIHAD Lauds Proclamation

JN1611190888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Nov 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] In addition to being a historic event—with dimensions in the pan-Arab struggle throughout the Arab world—the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and the raising of the state's flag over Jerusalem is also a political event, if not the most important political event in both the Arab and international arenas during the current stage.

In itself, the proclamation of the establishment of the Palestinian state—based on international legitimacy and the Palestinian people's inalienable right to their territory and homeland—represents a challenge to and a test for all forces that choose to be biased toward "Israel" and ignored, for the past 40 years, the rights of a people whose land was usurped and who were displaced from their homeland.

However, the continuing Palestinian legitimate struggle, the emergence of the dawn of the uprising, and the heroic acts of the revolutionaries of stones on the land of Palestine were enough to create new atmospheres at both the Arab and international levels that opened the road before the Arab right to reach the positions of decision-making and to make the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil a reality recognized by many.

Thus, the PLO was strengthened by the uprising. Its ability to state openly its rights, proclaim its state, raise its flag, and support its people was also strengthened. Undoubtedly, this will also strengthen the uprising, which will not stop until the completion of liberation. This will also push forward political action, which will escalate with the beginning of the new phase and correspond to its needs. The proclamation of the Palestinian state is not an end. It is the beginning of a struggle phase that will only end with the liberation of Jerusalem from the Zionists' filth.

Military Helicopter Crashes; 16 People Killed

JN1711124088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Nov (WAKH)—A responsible source at the UAE airbase of Umm Nahd has said that a Type 205 [as received] training helicopter belonging to the airbase crashed this morning in the Al-Awiir area in Dubai while on a training mission. The helicopter was carrying 13 military men and 3 crewmen. All those on board the helicopter were martyred.

WAM has said the helicopter hit the ground while flying at a low altitude on a training mission. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE defense minister, asked Almighty God to have mercy on the victims of this painful incident who fell while carrying out their national duty and also to grant patience and comfort to their relatives and their Armed Forces colleagues.

U.S. Embassy Confirms Expulsion of Diplomat
JN1711173488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has confirmed that Iraqi authorities have expelled the embassy's political section chief because of his close ties with the Kurds. The embassy spokesman said that the diplomat, Jack McCreary, left Baghdad for Washington last Tuesday.

President Speaks on Lebanon, Palestinian State
JN1711193488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1706 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn addressed to "participants in the victory and peace festival for Arab teachers and educators"—recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] When you say that the Iraqis have triumphed on the east flank of the Arab nation, I say that the Arab nation in Iraq has triumphed against the enemies of the nation as well as our enemies. The picture of the nation, its principles, and values were present in the eyes of the hawks, pilots, and all fighters when they were repulsing the aggression in the land of Iraq. I do not say the aggression against Iraq because—as you said, and because the fact is that—the aggression was targetted against Iraq as a front gate to the Arab land.

You see now that relations among Arabs are proceeding swiftly. You, on your level, meet, reach an understanding, decide whatever you want, and say whatever you want. This is a new state. It is a good state. On the level of Arab officials, we meet, discuss things, and reach agreements. And when we differ, our differences do not appear to be fights but have other meanings. Here, I speak about the majority of the Arabs. Reassurance is increasing in Arab relations. This has many advanatages for Arab stability and common action.

When a victory is achieved here against the nation's enemies, a heroic splendid steadfastness is achieved in the occupied territory for your brothers, the dear sons of Palestine. We believe that this steadfastness and this standard of steadfastness—together with the continuous readiness to offer sacrifices—will liberate Palestine. This is, of course, in addition to the increasing Arab interaction with and understanding of this steadfastness on all levels and in various areas.

The establishment of the Palestine state contains new meanings. All these meanings will be geared toward supporting the potentials of steadfastness of our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territory. This is despite the fact that—in terms of form—the proclamation of a state does not seem to be a new situation. The deep meanings show many things ahead. It will promote the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, because it has defined a line that will unite, not fragment. All the PLO-led Palestinian factions agreed on this line. All the Arabs also agreed on this line when they recognized the decisions of the Palestinian meeting in Algiers.

In Lebanon, we still face a tragic situation with all its meanings. It is tragic because an Arab is occupying another Arab. I do not want to speak a great deal on this subject, because it is known that we have an opinion with regard to the brothers in Syria. I want to speak as an Arab, regardless of my opinion of them. We told them the essence of our stand in 1978 when we were discussing together joint steps between Iraq and Syria. What proves that our stand is fair and what we say is not tendentious—as a result of the known relations between Iraq and Syria and Syria's stand on the war, which you know—is the fact that we said this on two occasions. In 1978, I said this to Hafiz al-Asad. I told him: Interference in Lebanese affairs and entry into Lebanon are not correct. If we want to take joint steps we should reach an agreement on this issue; otherwise, there will be deep differences between us.

The other occasion was in February 1980, when we issued the national declaration—and the war had not yet started. One of the principles of this declaration prohibits an Arab from using arms against other Arabs. [passage omitted]

All Arabs throughout the homeland were happy for the return of Tabah, the Egyptian spot, to mother Egypt. It is a small part of Egypt's territory, but a precious one. We are happy for the return of Tabah. However, at the same time, there is a violation of Lebanese territory. Were it not for the Syrian occupation, Israel may have hesitated before occupying Lebanese territory. The original, and correct stand is the one that is happy for the liberation of any part of the Arabs' territory and not the one that encroaches on the Arabs' territory. [passage omitted]

As for your brothers in Iraq, these are their principles. Or let us not say their principles, but their stand and the basis of their stand on Lebanon. That is, they do not intervene in Lebanon's affairs. However, they do not accept others' intervention in Lebanon's affairs. They call for the evacuation of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. We are endeavoring politically to make the Syrian Army evacuate Lebanon because it is not in the interests of Arabs that Arabism in Lebanon is being violated by an Arab army. This is the utmost fraud and insult to the Arab state of affairs.

For the first time in such an esteemed forum of this kind, I hear that a person comes from Lebanon to dot the I's and cross the T's. I always hear hints and general words. But, for a person to come and name things with their proper names and dot the I's and cross the T's, this is the first time I have heard this in my palace. In answer to it, I will also dot the I's and cross the T's. I will say that we will hold a dialogue with everyone in Lebanon, whoever they may be, including the group that belongs to the Iranian regime. We are ready to hold a dialogue with

them for the sake of Lebanon's unity and to put aside the rifle, whether they are Muslims or Christians, from this or that sect. You know that we do not differentiate in our country. In our country, religion is for God, faith is required, and the homeland is for all. This is Iraq.

We are ready to hold a dialogue with our brothers in Lebanon. We will extend all kinds of aid to all those who want to expel the occupier, whether this occupier comes from Syria, Israel, or, God forbid, from Iraq. This is a firm principle, in which we believe. Enemies of the Arabs can create problems among them so that they fight each other, and hence lose the sense of a strong relationship among them. Therefore, this must be erased from the nation's history.

This is a firm course. If you hear that Iraq has slackened and so forth, do not believe this because we will help, however we can, expel the occupier. We will help you unite and not become different, warring groups. This is our course—a course that I believe will not disturb any Arab. We urge Arabs to be brave and dot the I's and cross the T's if we send an occupying army anywhere and not to be like they are now. Now, no one dots the I's correctly. There are very few who tell Hafiz al-Asad to leave Lebanon. If Arabs tell Al-Asad to leave Lebanon, he will leave. Therefore, to be balanced in our behavior—my words will be heard by the Iraqis, including the Iraqi Armed Forces—I say that if, at any time, policy in Iraq goes to the extreme and an aggressive, invading army is sent to an Arab country, then I urge all Arabs to unite in one army and destroy the invading army because this will not benefit the Arab nation. This is in spite of the fact that the current upbringing in the country does not allow this, and your brothers, whom you know, are not the kind that go to extremes. Let the Syrian Army leave Lebanon so that the Lebanese people can unite and force the Israelis out by rifles. The Israelis can be forced out by rifles because their problem can be resolved easily. The people want to resist them and are resolved to make them pay the price on their territory if they do not leave their territory. The Arabs can help Lebanon's sons by enabling them to expel the Israeli Army from Lebanon. We can all play a role—whether we are in Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, the Arab Maghreb, or the Arab East. When we invite them to the Arab League, we invite all parties, and we can tell them: You cannot leave this hall unless you agree. [passage omitted]

The Arabs' stand on the Algiers declaration also, with God's will, ushers in good signs in its direct and indirect effects to support our kinfolk in the occupied homeland. Then, there are problems in the Arab world, but with God's help things are improving.

As for war and peace, I do not want to burden you. You undoubtedly have followed the war. It was long and hard. However, you have (?not contributed) in it—I mean the Arabs as a whole. You sent representatives to test us about the state as a whole. Those whom you made shoulder the responsibility have succeeded. In this, I do not mean 1 or 10 people, but all of your Iraqi brothers. They are the Arab nation in its history and aspirations. They were up to the conflict and up to development, concepts, and policies. It is as if the Iraqis had been given the responsibility of clarifying the matter and these concepts in the field and had been mandated to say that this is the duty now.

Brothers, we turned your words, poems, wishes, and prayers to rifles, cannons, airplanes, ability, and faith to counter the hard, savage assault against the Arab nation. If this wave had succeeded, there would have been nothing good left in the Arab nation. But, thanks be to God, God has defeated it, and it stayed in its homeland. God willing, we believe in a state of comprehensive and total peace. God willing, this state will be achieved when they abandon intransigence, begin to understand things as they are, and achieve the conviction that the road of peace is a victory for them. The real victory is not in insisting on the wrong and deviation but in abandoning them, not in indulging in war but in deciding to achieve peace. When peace is achieved, through an accord between the two countries, Iraq and Iran will be equally victorious. But, as for the military battle—it was not a military one, but, as I said, a comprehensive one from both positions. Therefore, its results are connected to the comprehensiveness of development and behavior from the two positions, not in the military field alone. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Trade Minister

Gives Message to President

JN1511164988 Baghdad INA in English 1605 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a written message from the Romanian President, Nicolae Ceausescu dealing with bilateral relations and confirmation of Romania's desire and preparedness to expand and develop them.

The message was received by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) the first deputy premier when he received here the Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Romanian minister to convey greetings of President Saddam Husayn to President Nicolae Ceausescu and confirmation of Iraqi leadership and people's satisfaction over developing its relations with Romania and its determination on continuing their expansion and development in all fields.

The Romanian minister renewed readiness of Romanian companies and desire in executing new development projects in Iraq and establishing joint projects.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Romanian ambassador to Iraq, horizons of developing cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

Visits With Planning Minister

JN1611202088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj today met Ioan Ungur, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting—attended by the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad—they discussed ways to enhance and develop the prospects of bilateral cooperation; the possibility of Romanian companies contributing toward the implementation of a number of Iraqi agricultural, transport, and communications projects; and the possibility of increasing the volume of exchange of scientific expertise.

Sees Agriculture Minister

JN1711093588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister, has met with Ioan Ungur, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his accompanying delegation. They reviewed the progress of work in the land reclamation projects being implemented by Romanian companies in Iraq. They also discussed the possibility of these companies' contribution to the implementation of new agricultural and irrigation projects.

Departs After Visit

JN1711095888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Ioan Ungur, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic ccoperation, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today concluding a visit to Iraq which lasted several days. During the visit, the Romanian minister held talks with Iraqi officials dealing with ways to promote relations between the two countries in the industrial, economic, and trade fields.

Indonesian Officials Visit for Economic Talks

Mining Minister Arrives

JN1511171288 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita arrived here tonight on a few days visit to Iraq.

He said that his talks with Iraqi officials would deal with oil and industrial cooperation between Indonesia and Iraq as well as the current situation of world oil market and its effects on OPEC member states. The talks, he added would also cover issues to be discussed by the organization's ministerial meeting in Vienna on Nov 21.

He was received at the airport by Iraqi oil minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi. Befor Baghdad, Ginanjar visited Iran and Kuwait where he had talks on the develoopmetns of world oil market.

Junior Trade Minister Arrives

JN1611112088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—J Sudrajat Jiwandono, Indonesian junior minister in charge of trade, arrived in Baghdad today at the head on an economic delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The visiting minister will meet with several Iraqi officials to discuss bilateral cooperation and means of promoting it.

Saddam Husayn Receives Message

JN1611113888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Indonesian President Suharto dealing with relations between the two friendly countries, means to promote them, and the world oil market situation.

Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita delivered the message when the president received him here today.

Attending the meeting were Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, the president's secretary, and the Indonesian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives Trade Official

JN1611164288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received J. Sudrajat Jiwandono, Indonesian junior minister in charge of trade, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Indonesian ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral relations. They also affirmed the common desire to explore new areas for increasing bilateral cooperation in economic and trade relations in a manner harmonious with the good Iraqi-Indonesian relations.

The Indonesian minister paid tribute to the development being witnessed in Iraq and affirmed his country's readiness to expand relations with Iraq in all spheres.

Alignment, Likud Form 'Secret' Negotiation Team

TA1711165388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Alignment and the Likud have set up a team which will hold secret talks to examine the possibility of forming a unity government. Our correspondent Razi Barqay has learned that the Alignment representatives on the team are Ministers Moshe Shahal and Hayim Bar-Lev, and the Likud representatives are Minister Moshe Arens and Knesset Member Dan Meridor.

The two parties decided to refrain from publicizing the establishment of this team because they wanted to prevent any pressuring on the team members by opponents in both parties who are against the establishment of a unity government.

Our correspondent reports that the team will try to consolidate an agreement on the following disputed questions: the manning of the portfolios, the government's basic guidelines, and the establishment of a mechanism which will ensure that the basic guidelines are kept and that no unilateral decisions which are unacceptable to either one of the parties are made.

Labor Party Circles Object to Unity Government

TA1711152188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] A meeting of the various Labor Party circles ended a short time ago. At the meeting they passed a resolution rejecting a unity government. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports from Labor Party headquarters:

The meeting ended a short time ago, and the following is the text of the resolution: We, members of all the party's circles, call for putting a halt to contacts with the Likud and for playing the important role of serving in the opposition. The ministerial team has not been granted any powers or constitutional status to conduct these negotiations.

This was the resolution stated at the conclusion of the 2-hour debate by members of all the Labor Party circles: Mashov, Shiluv, Hakfar Hayaroq, Hazerem Hamerkazi, and Hamishmeret Hatze'ira. The conference hall was too small to accommodate all those who wanted to voice their opposition to the contacts and initiatives being pursued by the Labor Party ministers and the negotiating team established by the ministers yesterday.

What follows are some selected quotes from the debate. Labor Party Secretary 'Uzi Bar'am said: We wanted to get across a message in the last elections, but we will not be able to do that if we take part in a unity government a unity government; we would not be able to look people in the eye; this is a struggle over ideology. Mikha Harish said: Nobody has been empowered to conduct formal or informal talks on joining a unity government. Arye Eli'av argued: I want to restore the Labor Party's lost honor.

In sum, it could be said that except for Mikha Goldman all participants objected to a unity government. The call emanating from the conference hall seems to be strong and assertive, and it is hard to believe that the Labor Party's top echelon will be able to ignore it.

Peres: PNC Move Creates More Complications

TA1711185288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Palestine National Council's resolution has not opened the way to peace in the Middle East and has complicated the situation still further. He told a news conference in Jerusalem the PLO had not accepted UN Resolution 242, but it has hedged about the condition which rendered it meaningless. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Resolution 242 represents a delicate balance between the Israeli and Arab positions, Shim'on Peres said, but the PNC did not accept it as it is. Instead, it linked it to the partition resolution of 1947 which has been superseded and other UN resolutions which Israel cannot accept, thus rendering its acceptance of 242 meaningless.

[Peres] The slightest change in formulation or wording can kill this existing formula and leave all of us without an agreed situation to open the negotiations.

[Katzenell] This is in effect a rejection of 242, Peres said. Secondly, the PNC did not renounce terrorism inside the State of Israel or the territories, only overseas.

[Peres] Can you expect an Israeli to go and negotiate while violence and terror take place, go on and augment themselves as the PNC has suggested? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Briefs Heads of Foreign Representations

TA1811104588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today conferred with the heads of 40 foreign representations in Israel to clarify Israel's position concerning the Algiers resolutions. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that only the head of the Turkish representation in Israel abstained from the meeting. The foreign minister explained that the PLO's resolutions prove that this organization prefers its method of phases over that of defining borders. Israel, Peres noted, is worried, because the PLO now has less of a Jordanian character and more of an extreme Palestinian one.

Answering a question on whether an international conference is still possible, Peres said that without Jordan and Palestinians there is no realistic possibility of convening such a conference.

Shamir Briefs Congressmen on 'Who Is a Jew' Law
TA1811103788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the terror organizations did not succeed in committing acts of terror and are now resorting to disinformation. The PLO, said Shamir, did not change its policy in Algiers, and is still aiming to destroy Israel. Mr Shamir made these remarks to a delegation of U.S. congressmen from New Jersey now visiting Israel.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that commenting on the Who Is a Jew issue, Shamir reiterated that he is looking for a way to calm U.S. Jewry, and even promised to discuss a formula that would solve this problem with a delegation of Jewish organizations.

U.S. Jewry Reaction to 'Who Is a Jew' Law Noted
TA1711204688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] Even before the establishment of a new government, an unprecedented crisis is developing in Israel's relations with U.S. Jewry. The background for this is the prime minister's commitment to the religious parties to amend the Who Is a Jew law. The U.S. Jewry is in turmoil over this, and the repercussions of the emergency session of the Jewish organizations have already reached the prime minister's office and Foreign Ministry, giving rise to concern. Those who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp do not need further confirmation of their Jewishness, one of the session participants said. Others threatened to put a stop to financial and political support of Israel.

Israel's U.S. Ambassador Moshe Arad this evening sent a cable to the prime minister and foreign minister in which he reports on this turmoil and the feeling of insult which are shaking up most strata of the Jewish public in the United States. There is no doubt, the ambassador states, that if the Who Is a Jew law is amended we will witness a deep breach, and such a development will be very grave from the point of view of Israel's status in the U.S. I am appealing and requesting, the ambassador writes in his telegram, that the serious impact on Israel's relations with the Jewish community and the attendant implications on Israel's status in the United States be discussed anew and reassessed.

In a meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek today, John Whitehead, U.S. deputy secretary of state, also conveyed his impression that U.S. Jewry is going through a trauma, and that Israel-U.S. relations are largely dependent on relations between Israel and the Jewish community. Teddy Kollek got the impression that the crisis over the Who Is a Jew issue had a graver impact on the U.S. Jewish community than the Palestinian proclamation of independence.

The prime minister's confidants told us this evening that there is no doubt that Israel finds itself in a very difficult situation in this affair, and it is not yet clear how it will be able to emerge from it unscathed. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 17 November adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the National Religious Party [NRP] representatives that a broad-based government will better face the storm raging in the U.S. Jewish community on the amendment to the Who Is a Jew law.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that in a talk with the NRP negotiations delegation this evening, Mr Shamir said he was receiving appeals and letters from U.S. Jewry elements who are opposed to amending this law. Understanding prevailed in this evening's meeting about the importance of a broad-based government. Minister Zvulun Hammer said one should take care that two different foreign policy versions do not exist in such a government."]

Commentary on New Leadership in Gaza Strip
TA1011145688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 88 p 9

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "A Short-Range Approach"]

[Text] It is the conventional wisdom among all those involved in formulating security policy in the Gaza Strip that the operative success of the intifada [uprising] has meant the end of the era of the traditional leadership. The total loss of influence by leaders such as Rashad al-Shawwa and Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi on the Gaza Strip population forced officials of the defense establishment to face a difficult dilemma. They were obliged to work out—under the dual harsh conditions of the pressure of time and continuous confrontation with wide-ranging violence—their desired approach toward the local leadership which has developed on the ruins of its predecessor.

The rise of the new leadership forced the defense establishment to make a decision which contained a potential for change in the concept crystalized during the first 20 years of occupation. It has become absolutely clear that with the erosion in the positions of the traditional leadership, the policy adopted by Israel in the territories in the past 20 years has been nullified.

Looking back, it can be said that the decisionmakers in Israel missed the propitious moment that came their way 9 or 10 months ago, and even more gravely, today they are still not prepared to make any changes in the mistaken concept which guides them.

In the struggle that has developed in the past year for hegemony of the Gaza Strip population, a young and militant leadership is clearly winning. It mans the popular committees and receives political-institutional support from those who hold key positions in the professional organizations which operate under the auspices of the Military Government and the Civil Administration. This leadership is identified almost openly with the PLO, and in particular with Fatah, headed by Yasir 'Arafat. They translate their identification with the Palestinian organization into national terms. They make up the Unified National Command of the Uprising, the term which has garnered power and recognition during the months of intifada.

One can even point to a certain similarity to the behavior of the the Jewish community's leadership under the British Mandate because the Gaza Strip inhabitants regard their political activity in the wider political context of "the process of building a nation." Some of the professional associations operating in Gaza (15 among some 80) have been given the name "the national institutions," and the meaning is clear: They are the first moves by a nation in the making.

The most prominent national institutions are the associations which represent the free professions. Their chairmen are clearly identified with the PLO. This is the case with Fayiz Abu Rahmah, who is considered even by Civil Administration experts to be the most senior representative of the 'Arafat camp in the Gaza Strip. This is also true about Hatim Abu Sha'ban, the head of the engineers' association, a young man who took over leadership of the association 2 years ago and almost declares his identification with the PLO publicly and of Dr Dhakariyya al-Ar'a, the chairman of the Gaza Strip medical association, who was released from 6 months administrative detention some 2 weeks ago. The dominance of the PLO, and in particular that of Fatah, is not restricted to the professional associations and is dominant also among the young people who make up the leadership of the popular committees.

In its responses to the development of the national leadership, the defense establishment has remained a prisoner of its concept, and the decisionmakers took steps which demonstrated that their thought processes are frozen. Based on the short-range considerations of their political concept—which found expression as far back as the time when Moshe Dayan was defense minister—the decisionmakers rejected a priori the possibility of a dialogue with the crystalizing leadership. They preferred to confront the new leaders through administrative means. Administrative detention replaced a dialogue.

According to the concept represented by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the leaders of the Unified National Command of the Uprising are disqualified from the start from being possible partners in a dialogue because they identify with the PLO and its political outlook. Since the PLO itself is anathema to us, its representatives in the territories must also be disqualified. By taking this attitude the defense minister succeeded in leading the defense establishment into a deadlock.

At the same time as the Unified National Command of the Uprising is growing in strength, the religious leadership of the Gaza Strip has also gathered a lot of momentum. Based on the Islamic Mujama'—which the Military Government has encouraged since 1978 as a counterbalance to the PLO—the religious leaders are gaining significant political power. In theory the Islamic Mujama' is headed by Ibrahim al-Yazuri, the pharmacist with the powerful personality, but in fact the religious camp is being lead by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who has magical influence over his flock.

The Islamic Mujama', whose political outlook is based on the views of the Muslim Brotherhood, confronts the radical Muslims gathered around the Islamic Jihad Movement. Dozens of activists from this organization were imprisoned in recent months and two of its leaders—Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awda and Dr Fathi Shaqaqi—even found themselves on the other side of the security zone border in Lebanon.

Under the influence of the intifada, there has been an ideological uplifting among the Islamic Mujama' leadership (whose expression in the field has been Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]), and there is now practically no difference between the concepts of the radical Islamic Jihad and Hamas. The continuation of the intifada and the defense establishment's disregard for the Unified National Command of the Uprising will no doubt lead to the strengthening of the religious leadership, with which there is no chance of reaching a dialogue and agreement in the future.

The real failure of the defense establishment in confronting the intifada and its repercussions derives from the fact that the decisionmakers continue to formulate policy exclusively on the basis of ongoing security considerations and do not succeed in going beyond that and looking at the broader scene which has come to light in the past year. The attitude toward the leadership in the Gaza Strip is a clear expression of this continuing failure.

Declaration Puts Shamir, Country on Defensive

TA1711133988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Algiers and Beyond"]

[Text] One, probably unintended, result of the PLO's declaration of Palestinian statehood is fairly certain to be the removal of the idea of a Middle East international peace conference as a subject of political debate within Israel.

The idea could appeal to moderate-minded Israelis so long as it was couched in the terms agreed upon in London last year between Shim'on Peres and King Husayn: a non-coercive big-power setting for direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the disposition of the occupied territories and the conclusion of a peace with Jordan. Only such a setting, it was contended, could enable Husayn to enter a peace negotiation process.

In spiking that proposal, Yitzhaq Shamir argued that an international conference would be merely a platter on which the strategically vital territories would forcibly be handed over to the terrorist PLO. Opposition to such a conference became the central feature of Likud propaganda in the recent Knesset election campaign.

Now the PLO's parliament, so called, has confirmed what Mr. Shamir's critics argued all along, namely rejection of the opening for negotiations with Jordan would only leave him facing the PLO. Thus, Mr. Shamir's distorted definition of the nature of the original international conference idea has now been made real by the PLO's redefinition of that idea as the basis of its own programme: to have the big powers breathe legitimacy into the papier-mache state it has just produced, and to impose it on Israel. There being few backers in this country for such a conference, and since Jordan too has now recognized the "Palestinian state," the domestic controversy over an international conference may be considered closed.

From now on, and until further notice, Israelis discussing options for peace will have no reason to bring up the possibility of such a conference. That already applies to the talks between the Alignment and the Likud about the former joining a government coalition headed by the latter.

The wider international repercussions of the Algiers declaration may not, however, be dismissed so lightly. True, neither the U.S., which has rejected the declaration as a unilateral act will not advance the peace, nor the Soviet Union, which has welcomed it, is likely to grant Yasir 'Arafat the recognition he so dearly craves. In a somewhat ironical comment on the PLO's claim that it "implicitly" recognized Israel, Egypt, a moderating patron of the PLO, has "implicitly" recognized the Palestinian state it would have preferred not to hear declared.

In the foreseeable future, and so long as the IDF maintains its peacekeeping ability, the Palestinian state will remain a gleam in Palestinian eyes, not much more, even if scores of states around the world do give it recognition, and the UN General Assembly formally "welcomes" it on the specious reasoning that it is grounded in the 41-year old Resolution 181.

But political initiatives, even if ambivalent or bogus, sometimes carry a dynamic that may prove irrevocable if not countered properly.

The Algiers resolution of the Palestine National Council is a document that pretends to accept what it does not and to disavow what it plainly still upholds, and that instead of scrapping the political Palestinian Covenant, seeks to bring it up-to-date. It offers anything but the "realistic" and "constructive" prescription that the Turkish charge d'affaires in Israel claims it does. As the White House spokesman has observed, even in welcoming its "implicit" recognition of Israel as such, the resolution does not really accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, does not recognize Israel's rightful existence, and does not renounce terrorism and violence.

What it does, however, do is to stake a claim not to the whole of Palestine, as the PLO used to do, but to a part of it; and, at least by implication, not to the part of the Land earmarked for a Palestinian state in the original partition resolution, but to the significantly smaller areas covered by 242. This may be but a public-relations ploy to disguise an ongoing commitment to a violent strategy of expansion by "stages." But foreign states will not readily ignore the contrasting fact that it is the entire land, with its over a million-and-a-half occupied Palestinians, that the majority of Israel's present government, and perhaps all of Israel's next government, claims as a right.

On that basis alone, the PLO can rightfully claim that it has succeeded in placing Israel and Mr. Shamir's government squarely on the defensive in the arena of world diplomacy.

Further on Curfews, Casualties in Territories

Ramallah Closed to Media

TA1611142488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF has closed Ramallah to the media. Early this afternoon in central Ramallah the Army apprehended two riot inciters who had instigated youths to hurl stones at security forces. One of the detainees is a resident of East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that it was generally quiet in Judaea in Samaria, except for sporadic incidents of stone throwing and PLO flag hoisting.

Today, curfews are imposed on the cities of Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah, on the Al-'Arrub, Nur al-Shams, 'Askar, and Balatah refugee camps, and on the villages of 'Azzun and Shuwayhah.

'Uprising' Death Toll Reported

TA1611162688 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 16 Nov 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On 14 November 1988, the 342d day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported a total of 240 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The number does not include victims of settlers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the total of Palestinian dead in the occupied territories stands at 327.

Palestinian sources, however, report a total of 417 Palestinian dead, according to the following breakdown:

—279 persons killed by IDF and settlers' gunfire.

—65 persons dead through tear gas inhalation.

—36 persons killed by beating and electrocution.

—37 persons killed by other factors.

Policemen Hurt in E. Jerusalem

TA1711090988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Two policemen were wounded in Jerusalem this morning after being stoned by students from the Al-Rashidiyah School in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that a Border Police force entered the school and detained eight students on suspicion of carrying out the attack.

2 Gaza Youths Wounded

TA1711165988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Two youths, residents of Khan Yunus, were slightly wounded this afternoon when IDF soldiers fired plastic bullets during the dispersal of a riot. The two were hospitalized at Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv. [passage omitted]

13 Wounded in West Bank

TA1711175388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Thirteen people were wounded in two Judaea and Samaria villages today as a result of a confrontation with the IDF forces. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that 11 residents were wounded in the wake of an initiated operation in the village of Tammun in Janin District, and 2 more were wounded in Kafr Jammal in Tulkarm District.

Several residents were wounded in the Gaza Strip as a result of soldiers' fire. Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, said he does not feel a change in the area in the wake of the PNC resolution.

There were several riots and stone-throwing incidents in East Jerusalem today. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that police had to resort to gas and plastic bullets to disperse rioters who attacked a tourist minibus in the Al-Tur neighborhood at the top of the Mount of Olives. The police also used gas and plastic bullets to disperse a gathering of about 30 youths at the Al-Sa'adiyah neighborhood in the Old City. There were no casualties in either incident.

Stones were thrown at a No 25 bus near the mosque at the Shu'fat neighborhood. One of the windshields was smashed and two boys were slightly grazed. Stones were thrown at policemen in Silwan, and one of them was slightly injured. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 November adds that "an Israeli taxi was stoned in the Al-Tur area, and the driver was slightly injured in the head."]

Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip

TA1711205988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Eleven [as heard] people were wounded in two clashes with security forces during disturbances in the territories today. There were also several stone-throwing incidents in East Jerusalem. Six Israelis sustained slight injuries, including three policemen. The police detained 10 Arab youths. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that the IDF operated in dozens of villages in Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Beni Liss reports from the Gaza Strip.

[Begin videorecording] After 5 days the curfew was lifted in many places in the Gaza Strip, but not everywhere. The residents of Jabalyah, Dayr al-Balah, and the Rafah and Khan Yunus refugee camps, are still subject to a curfew. Only a few of the 50,000 residents who are employed in Israel left for work. The residents filled the markets to stock up on food, but the markets closed down quite quickly. Public transportation was strike-bound, and only a few people wandered about in the city streets in the afternoon.

The religious movement of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has brought about a 3-day strike in Gaza and other towns in protest against the PNC resolutions in Algiers. They are protesting that the proclamation of independence does not contain any word which states that Islam is the religion of the Palestinian state. Hamas also does not see a need for the establishment of an independent state. It claims that the entire region is an Islamic area without boundaries. This radical movement forced those who tried to open their shops to close

them down, and the residents gave in. This is part of the ongoing struggle between religious and nonreligious residents that has been occurring throughout the period of the uprising.

The IDF, in contrast, has not decreased its presence, and both foot and motorized patrols on a very large scale are still noticeable in the streets of Gaza and the refugee camps. If the pace and volume of incidents are reduced, the military echelon will consider a reduced presence. The 1st day following the curfew was marked by throwing of stones and burning of tires, as has been the case in the Gaza Strip for a long time now. Two casualties have been reported, one from Khan Yunus and the other from Rafah [as heard]. Plastic bullets were fired in the course of the riots. [end recording]

A bomb exploded less than an hour ago in Wadi Qaddum, east of Jerusalem. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the bomb exploded when a police vehicle was traveling through the wadi. A report came in a short while ago about an incident involving the throwing of stones at cars in Wadi al-Jawz in East Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 November in a page 1 report by Andy Court and Joel Greenberg adds: "Troops shot and wounded at least 29 Palestinians during clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday, as the IDF lifted most curfews imposed to block celebrations of the declaration of independence by the Palestinian National Council."]

Cabinet Establishes Death Penalty Committee

TA1311130188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The government has decided to set up a ministerial committee which will consult with the Army chief prosecutor on the question of punishment of terrorists convicted of particularly cruel murders of civilians. The government took up the issue in the wake of the Jericho firebomb attack in which a woman and her three young children were killed. From the prime minister's office, Jack Katzenell reports:

As one of the the ministers explained to me a few minutes ago, today's Cabinet decision both facilitates the imposition of the death penalty and makes it more difficult. Up to now the military courts have only on rare occasions handed down a death penalty, and even then it has always been commuted to life imprisonment. The courts do not sentence a terrorist to death unless the military prosecutor has asked for such a penalty, and he will not ask for it unless ordered to do so by the judge advocate general. The judge advocate general will not give such an order before consulting the chief of staff and the defense minister.

Under the new arrangement, he will have to obtain the approval of a committee consisting of the ministers of defense, justice, and foreign affairs, and the attorney general; and they will certainly take into account a very wide range of implications. On the other hand, if all these ministers and the attorney general are agreed that a particular case deserves the death penalty, then the military courts can impose it with the knowledge that the Army and the civilian government have considered it very carefully.

This is the government's response to the growing public pressure for the execution of terrorists. Up to now, this pressure was confined to the right wing parties, but after the Jericho firebomb attack, in which a woman and her three young children died, Defense Minister Rabin called for the death penalty for particularly cruel cases of terrorism. The question is now under discussion in the defense establishment.

Egypt Steps Up Antiterror Measures Along Border

TA1111111188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 88 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Over the past few weeks the Egyptian authorities have deployed dozens of soldiers along the Israeli-Egyptian border to prevent any infiltration into Israel. This is a new measure indicating that Egypt is doing everything possible to prevent terrorist attacks from its territory. These remarks were made by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, in a meeting with correspondents yesterday.

Maj Gen Mordekhay said that there has been a decline in the number of infiltrations from Egypt. "There are incidents of smuggling, mainly drugs, women's underwear, and spare parts for cars. In most cases, however, the smugglers have been apprehended."

Palestinians Allowed To Enter Egypt Overland

TA1511150288 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that Egyptian authorities have agreed in principle to allow Jerusalem and West Bank residents to enter Egypt overland through the Rafah crossing point.

Administrative arrangements to implement this decision quickly are presently being drawn up in Egypt.

Tabah Demarcation To Start in 'Next Few Days'

TA1711124788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Israeli and Egyptian military liaison units will start marking the new border stones on the basis of the Tabah arbitration ruling in the next few days. Our

political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that all of the 15 border stones will be marked, including Border Stone 91, the last one before the sea; this will leave the Aviya Sonesta and the resort village in the Egyptian part of Tabah. Israel has also informed Egypt that it is ready to enter negotiations regarding the arrangements for future management of the resort facilities in the Tabah region.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 17 November adds that "political sources in Jerusalem have denied the report that Israel is acting on the premise that the Sonesta Hotel will automatically be in Egyptian territory."]

Captured 'Terrorists' Describe 'Suicide Mission'

TA1411144788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The three wounded terrorists captured yesterday on their way to an attack in Israel were operated on in a Zefat hospital. In a conversation with our correspondent Hayim Hecht, one of them—Muhammad Faris, 21, of Kuwait—said that he and his colleagues knew that they were undertaking a suicide mission. They trained for 2 months at a DFLP camp in Lebanon.

Their aim was to reach Qiryat Shemona, capture hostages, and demand the release of 4,000 prisoners in Israel. The wounded terrorist also said that those who sent him on the mission also explained to the squad members that the only way to reach Israel was through Lebanon, because soldiers in Jordan and Syria do not permit terrorist crossings.

IMI Unveils Motorized Deception Drone

TA1411124988 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 88 p 16

[Report by aviation correspondent Arye Egozi]

[Text] Israel Military Industries [IMI] has recently unveiled the Delila, an upgraded model of the Israeli deception drone Shimshon.

According to foreign press reports, the Shimshon-type deception drone already participated in the destruction of Syrian surface-to-air missiles in the Al-Biqa' in 1982. The Shimshon, however, is not motorized. It is borne by aircraft, which release it close to its target area. The drone remains aloft for some time with all its deception systems functioning.

The Delila, which is in the final stages of development, is a more advanced motorized model. Its purpose is to mislead the enemy's detection systems in order to allow assault planes to reach their target without encountering either antiaircraft fire or surface-to-air missiles.

The drone is equipped with a jet engine and can be launched both from the ground and from an aircraft. Owing to the jet engine, it can reach a speed of 0.8 Mach (Mach 1 equals the speed of sound) and an altitude of 32,000 ft (about 10 km).

During flight, the drone activates either of two deception systems: It can scatter "chaff," which creates various signals on the enemy radar screens, thus preventing the detection of the real aircraft; or it can transmit signals which create "bleeps" on the enemy radar screens similar to those generated by genuine aircraft.

In both instances, the simulated signals disrupt the detection systems, which are a vital part of antiaircraft systems.

In addition, the drone is equipped with a navigation unit capable of guiding it to an exact spot over a specific target. Another facet of the drone is a computer which enables the preplanning of a flight route and the timing of the deception system activation.

The Delila weighs about 200 kg.

IMI and an American company, which cooperated with the former in the U.S. market, have so far sold 600 Shimshon systems to the U.S. Navy, which has ordered 1,000 more such units.

Expert opinion is that the Delila will undoubtedly arouse the interest of foreign armies and that it has considerable export potential.

Police Demand UN Forces Stop Surveillance

TA1411181288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] At Government House, Jerusalem District police demanded from UN observers that they stop their surveillance of police activity in the adjoining village of Jabal al-Mukabar. A few days ago, a sharp exchange and fistfight broke out with police officers. A UN officer and an Arab UN worker were taken for police investigation. The two were released only after the commander of the UN observers apologized and promised that such incidents would not recur.

The Foreign Ministry informed the UN staff officers that they do not have a mandate to conduct surveillance within Israel. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren points out that until the incident was broadcast on the Voice of Israel 1 month ago, the police did not take any action regarding the UN observers' intervention.

Talks With Hungary on Relocating Failing Factories
TA1411162588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The possibility of relocating troubled Israeli factories to Hungary is being examined in Budapest. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the two countries have been holding contacts over plans to relocate factories on the verge of closure. According to the proposal, the factories would be reconstructed in Hungary with Israeli know-how and would be operated with the equipment they had used in Israel. The financing would be done by Hungary, while foreign investors would foot the bill of the relocation.

El Al Inaugurates Flights to Budapest
TA1211184388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] El Al airlines this evening inaugurated its flights to Budapest. A Boeing 757 is now making its way from Israel to the Hungarian capital. An El Al spokesman announced that the first flight of the Hungarian airline to Israel will take place at the end of the month. Flights at this stage will be planned according to passengers' demand, and toward the spring each of the national airlines will have two weekly flights on the Tel Aviv-Budapest route.

Unemployment Up; More Work Permits Issued
TA1011122188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Nov 88 p 10

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] The number of people looking for work rose by just over 2,000, or 4.3 percent, last month compared with September, according to the latest Employment Service figures.

The Employment Service's seasonally adjusted figures, released yesterday, showed that 49,436 people were registered at employment bureaus as looking for work in October, compared with 47,380 in September. Of the October figure, 29,512 had been out of work for six days or more. The figures do not include people receiving National Insurance Institute income-support benefits.

The number of jobs on offer at the Employment Service rose at a faster pace than the number seeking work. The number of offers rose 11.2 percent in seasonally adjusted terms, to 21,582.

The service noted that the number of people turning down suitable jobs rose 50.4 percent last month, from 2,204 to 3,319. People who refuse work offered them by the bureaus lose their right to unemployment benefits.

There was a slight increase in the number of work permits granted to Palestinian workers from the territories, from 45,574 to 45,827. The total number of Palestinian workers working within the Green Line is generally thought to be at least twice this figure. The absentee rate for Palestinian workers last month stood at around 20 percent.

Aside from Palestinian workers, 1,580 labourers from South Lebanon received permits to work in Israel in October, as did some 3,614 other foreign workers. [passage omitted]

Large October Trade Deficit Shows 'Grim Picture'
TA1011121688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Nov 88 p 9

[Report by finance correspondent Pinhas Landau]

[Text] Israel's trade deficit yawned dangerously wider in October, climbing to $377 million—the highest monthly figure for exactly a year—figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed.

Imports surged last month, after being artificially repressed in September by the incidence of the holidays. Exports also rebounded, but to lesser extent, sending the trade gap soaring.

Even the use of seasonally adjusted figures to smooth out some of the fluctuations left a grim picture, with October's trade deficit representing by far the largest of the current year and surpassing the worst months of 1987.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the average trade deficit for September and October taken together was 31 percent higher, at a seasonally adjusted $296m., than in the two preceding months. This was caused by an 11 percent decline in exports over the most recent two-month period, compared with July-August, while imports remained roughly flat, when each set of two months is taken together.

However, a statement issued by Industry and Trade Ministry Director-General Yoram Belizovsky, ignored these trends and focused instead on a statistical quirk—the 44 percent rise in exports in October this year, compared with the same month last year. This it put down to the fact that last year the holiday season fell in October, while this year it was mainly in September.

Despite the deteriorating trade position in recent months, the cumulative figures for the first 10 months of the year still reflect a significant improvement. Imports in January-October were 10 percent higher than the same period last year, at $10.25 billion, but exports jumped 18 percent to $7.7b. This resulted in a $240m. narrowing of the trade deficit in the year to date, to $2.5b., or some 9 percent compared with 1987.

Imports last month totalled $1.196b.—apparently the largest amount for a single month ever. Of this, 73 percent represented production inputs, including diamonds and fuel, 15 percent was investment goods and 12 percent was consumer goods. But almost one third of the production inputs imported in October were uncut diamonds.

The statistics bureau pointed out that imports, on a seasonally adjusted basis and excluding planes, ships, and diamonds, averaged $811m. a month in September-October, since September was unusually low and October higher than the recent average. This continued the stable trend in force since April, noted the bureau, and represented a reduction on the $850m. monthly average of late 1987 and early 1988.

On the export side, the last two months have seen a decline in every sector—food by 16 percent, textiles and clothing by 11 percent, and metals and electronics by 9 percent. Diamond exports also fell, by 8 percent between July-August to September-October, from a monthly average of $220m. to $202m.

CPI up 2.4 Percent; Inflation Rate 17.2 Percent

TA1511153988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Consumer Price Index [CPI] for October increased by 2.4 percent. The CPI for the first 10 months of the year rose 14 percent. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the main increases were in housing, 6.5 percent; clothing and footwear, over 4 percent; and food, 3.6 percent. The price of fruit and vegetables went down 0.2 percent. The annual inflation rate is 17.2 percent. [passage omitted]

Drug Seizures, Addiction Data Reported

TA1211183888 [Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 November, in a report by ITIM on page 15, says that Dib Fawzi, a 23-year-old Yafo resident, was sentenced to "an 18-month prison term" after "he was convicted of having operated a drug station in his house and distributed hundreds of grams of heroin."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 9 November, in a report by Yehuda Tzur on page 23, says that "some 10 days ago a soldier of the UNIFIL Norwegian contingent was detained upon crossing the border from Lebanon to Israel. He was found in possession of 500 grams of Persian cocaine, worth some $3 million. The soldier claimed that he served as a courier for drug dealers from the center of Israel."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 November, in a report by ITIM on page five, says that two sisters, residents of Holon, were detained and charged with "running a drug station from their apartment for several months." "The police claim that they prepared and sold 300 doses of heroin weekly. The sisters prepared some 45 doses out of every 5 grams of heroin, selling each dose for 45 shekels." ITIM also reports the detention of a 30-year-old Gazan who was found in Tel Aviv in possession of 13 grams of heroin.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 12 November reports that "the organization of families of drug addicts says there are about 200,000 addicts in Israel today, many of them addicted to hard drugs. Health Ministry data talk of 15,000 drug addicts only. There are only three drug treatment centers in Israel: in Yafo, Bet Shemesh, and a newly opened center in Kibbutz Gesher Haziv in Galilee. There is a total of 60 beds in all centers." The plague of drugs is said to have hit all strata of the population, regardless of education or salary level, including the Arab and religious Jewish sectors.

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey

JN1511155988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman for Turkey this morning on a short working visit during which he will meet with Turkish President Kenan Evren. He will also hold talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal on ways to promote bilateral relations in various areas in the interest of the Jordanian and Turkish peoples. The talks will also deal with a number of issues of interest to the Islamic world, issues of common interest, and the situation in the Middle East. His highness was seen off by a number of senior civilian and military officials.

Returns From Visit 15 Nov

JN1611111088 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0932 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Amman, 16 Nov (PETRA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman last night after a short working visit to Turkey, during which he met with His Excellency President Kenan Evren and handed him a message from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East. The visit is part of the continuous coordination between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the region as well as current international issues and bilateral relations and ways to promote them. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, the foreign minister, and the Jordanian ambassador to Turkey.

His highness also held talks with Ozal on ways to promote bilateral relations as well as developments in the international arena and the latest events in the Middle East. The Turkish prime minister gave a dinner banquet to honor his higness the crown prince. Senior officials attended the banquet. His Highness Prince Hasan was received upon arrival in Amman by senior Jordanian officials.

Egypt's Al-Baz Visits 11 Nov, Makes Statement

JN1211091588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under-Secretary and Director of President Husni Mubarak's Office Usamah al-Baz arrived here Friday on a working visit during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. In an arrival statement, Al-Baz paid tribute to Jordanian-Egyptian relations and said his visit comes within the framework of bilateral consultations and exchange of views on recent developments in the region. There is a pan-Arab vision of the situation in the region and its basic issues, including the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon and peace in the Gulf region, Al-Baz said.

On the Palestine issue, Al-Baz said two new developments had recently come up, the first being the meeting of the Palestine National Council and the consultations that took place prior to its convening, and the second being the outcome of the Israeli elections which demands thorough and comprehensive study. Al-Baz said that events in Lebanon were accelerating and the situation was aggravating. "Dangers of division are in sight and are clearer this time, more than any other time in the past," he said.

On the Iraq-Iran peace talks, Al-Baz said: "We are following up on the efforts made by Iraq to reach a comprehensive agreement that guarantees an end to the war and not just a ceasefire." He voiced Egypt's unequivocal support for Iraq and said Jordan and Egypt stand in one trench with the Iraqi leadership in its efforts to achieve security and stability in the Gulf region.

He said many contacts at the international level had been made and that Egypt found it necessary to review them with Jordanian officials in order to agree on the best method for supporting Iraqi diplomatic efforts. Al-Baz said the Egyptian position in this regard was based on the understanding that Iraq does not impose harsh and unjust conditions but presents a comprehensive preception for ending the war. Al-Baz said the Iraqi position deserves international support.

In answer to a question on Palestinian options as presented to the PNC and whether there is joint Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian coordination, Al-Baz said: "This issue is left to the Palestinian people and their leadership. However, Egypt and Jordan fully recognize the right of the Palestinian people to make whatever decisions they may deem fit because this is the true translation of the right to self-determination."

Al-Baz said the Palestinian people have the right to establish their own state according to international legitimacy. Al-Baz noted that the most important thing for Arabs was to provide the best circumstances for the Palestinian people to enable them to practice their right to self-determination and to establish their own state.

"The world should be convinced that the establishment of the Palestinian state does not pose a threat to the security of Israel. On the contrary, it constitutes an important guarantee for security and stability in the region," he said. However, he noted, the establishment of that state is not only a legal or moral issue but also a political issue that contributes to the security and stability of the region. Experiences over the past 50 years have proved that violence does not solve the problem, neither does it serve the cause of any party, and that is why a peaceful solution is the one and only clue that achieves balance between the interests of all parties concerned," he said.

Al-Baz said Israel, with all its parties and blocs, is responsible for whatever results might come up as a result of the ongoing coalition consultations between the various Israeli parties. However, he said: "We will press ahead with our efforts to achieve peace because we believe in our right to restore the freedom of the Palestinian people and we have never expected any gift from any Israeli party." He stressed that any increased tension in the occupied territories or escalation of violence against the Palestinian people living there, would reflect negatively on Israel itself rather than others.

'Relative Arab Satisfaction' With Bush Election

JN1211092188 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Bush: Down to Business"]

[Text] Relative Arab satisfaction with the election of George Bush as the 41st president of the United States rather than Michael Dukakis could be borne out by more than one manifestation. To begin with, Mr. Bush did not receive the solid Jewish vote as was earlier projected. According to some polls taken in the wake of the U.S. presidential election last Tuesday, Mr. Bush lost the Jewish vote to Michael Dukakis by approximately 70-30 per cent. This is to be compared with the 33 per cent that incumbent President Ronald Reagan received from Jewish voters in the past two presidential elections. But this is not all.

The consensus among Israeli leaders is that the new administration in Washington is likely to be less sympathetic towards Israel than the present one. What bothered Israeli and Jewish leaders was the first act by President-elect George Bush appointing Mr. James Baker as the new Secretary of State. Israeli and Jewish observers consider Baker, like Bush, as being less sympathetic and supportive of Israel than the outgoing Secretary of State George Shultz.

Judging by past experiences with both Democratic and Republic administrations, there is very little difference between the two towards Arab national issues. With the Democrats consolidating their grip on both U.S. Houses of Congress, the Arab world is again confronted with a no-win situation in Washington. The only thing left for the Arab Nation to do in the face of the on-going uncertainties in Washington and elsewhere is still to forge a powerful and enlightened Arab front that would engange all foreign capitals, whether hostile or friendly.

As for President-elect George Bush, protocol niceties require that he be congratulated on his election. However, real and genuine congratulations would be due when he begins to exercise his powers as the chief executive of the United States in the most positive and enlightened manner toward all regions of the world, including ours.

Paper Praises King's Speech, Urges Support

JN1311092988 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Nov 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A National Issue, and a National Program"]

[Text] In a very important speech His Majesty King Husayn delivered at the opening ceremony of the coin museum in the Central Bank building yesterday, he confirmed his confidence in Jordan's capabilities to overcome the current stage due to our credibility and achievements. He said that what is required of us all is to overcome opulent, inflationary consumption and depend on ourselves to become an inseparable part of the corrective operations. His majesty also clarified that there lies before of us a national issue requiring long-term and collective efforts. It is not a transitional governmental policy. The new measures are the beginning of a national program seeking to correct many ways in our society and economy. This correction and adaptation process should continue after the transient cloud has disappeared. Jordan has never been and never will be a duty-free shop in an airport or an arena for adventure and illegal profit.

Therefore, the king has crystallized the corrective nature of the national issue facing us and the collective responsibility stemming from it. The citizens must do their part to carry the burden through modifying their social and economic conduct. There is no doubt that this concept expresses belonging in all senses of the term and affirms that the call to modify conduct is not addressed to consumers only but equally to importers, traders, and middlemen. Economy is not different from belonging; otherwise it would turn to an adventure and illegal profit. This cannot be allowed in any way. Those who believe that economic activity does not include a commitment to belonging are prisoners of a wrong and exploitationist vision, which has been overtaken by time. It goes without saying that such a vision will have no place in our society.

We are all required to formulate with our consciousness and practices the core of the corrective operations themselves, since they are continuous operations that do not come in stages. Undoubtedly, our one family, which prides itself in and adheres to Husayn's guidance, will march forward toward saving and production with unwavering determination and confidence.

Further on Kidnapping of Red Cross Official

Red Cross Confirms Kidnapping

NC1711141888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] A source from the International Committee of the Red Cross Committee [ICRC] has confirmed the kidnapping of Peter Wingler. The source said that Wingler, born in 1956, is the ICRC representative in Al-Zahrani. He was riding in a Peugeot belonging to the ICRC with his escort Naji Sa'd when the incident took place.

Palestinians Involved in Search

NC1811065988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] No party has yet declared responsibility for the abduction of Peter Wingler, the ICRC chairman in Sidon. Wingler was kidnapped by three gunmen in the capital of the South [Sidon] yesterday.

Popular Liberation Army gunmen set up checkpoints at the approaches to Sidon last night in an attempt to prevent Wingler's abductors from taking him outside the area.

Citing Palestinian sources, REUTER says that Palestinians will search Sidon and its camps for Wingler.

Red Cross 'May Suspend' Activities

NC1811100988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The ICRC has announced that it may suspend its activities in Lebanon because of the abduction of Peter Wingler, a Swiss official of the committee, in the Sidon area yesterday. A spokesman for the committee noted that the committee does not have any information about the fate of its official, and he urged the kidnappers to release Wingler.

Group Vows To Ensure Release

NC1811104588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] While the fate of Red Cross employee Peter Wingler remains unknown, efforts have intensified in Sidon to unravel the circumstances that led to his abduction and to ensure his release. In this regard, Dr Usamah Sa'd, deputy secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, chaired a series of meetings in Sidon last night. The meetings were attended by representatives of nationalist and Islamic parties and forces, as well as representatives of the Amal Movement and Palestinian factions. The discussions centered on the issue of the abduction.

The conferees issued a statement condemning the kidnapping of the Swiss national and denouncing the forces responsible for engineering the abduction. The statement notes that this incident will produce adverse effects, particularly since it was targeted against a humanitarian institution. The incident was aimed at the defamation of Sidon and the nationalist and Islamic forces which support the presence of this institution and its humanitarian role, the statement declared.

The statement goes on to say: While condemning such practices in part and parcel, we reiterate our determination to follow up this issue, identify the kidnappers, and ensure that Wingler is released safe and sound so that he may resume his work.

Act 'Directed Against' PLO

NC1811122988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Citing Palestinian officials today, REUTER reported that the kidnapping of Red Cross official Peter Wingler was a step directed against the PLO. According to the report, the kidnappers are seeking to deal a blow to the political victory represented by the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. Representatives of various Palestinian factions, who met in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, said they will mount a large-scale search for Wingler.

Meanwhile, a PFLP official has noted that the kidnappers are most probably still in the area.

Shi'ite Scholar Reportedly Kidnapped in UAE

NC1811120088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Sources of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council have learned that Scholar al-Sayyid 'Abdallah al-Gharifi, head of the Ja'farite Awqaf Department in the UAE, has been kidnapped together with one of his companions. His companion was later freed. The fate of Scholar al-Gharifi is still unknown.

His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din has denounced this illegal act and held the UAE authorities responsible for this incident.

'Awn Cabinet Recognizes Palestinian State

NC1811125188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Statement issued after a cabinet meeting chaired by General Michel 'Awn in Beirut on 18 November]

[Text] The cabinet held its second weekly meeting this morning. It examined the topics on its agenda and adopted appropriate resolutions on them. The cabinet decided the following:

1. Lebanon believes in the principle that a people has the right to determine its own fate. Consequently, it believes in the Palestinian people's right to determine its own fate and to establish its state on its national soil in accordance with the UN General Assembly's resolutions. It is

Lebanon's firm policy that there should be a just solution to the Palestinian issue in a manner that will realize a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Lebanon affirms its continuous support for the Palestinian people, and its sympathy with their sufferings and pains, a major part of which the Lebanese people have shared, bearing what the Palestinian people have borne. Consequently, the cabinet declares its welcome and support for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state which was issued at the conclusion of the PNC meetings in Algiers on 15 November.

2. The cabinet apprised itself of the stands adopted by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, especially his recent positions. The cabinet expressed its complete satisfaction with and gratitude for these stands, which involve a profound, unbiased, and objective understanding of the Lebanese problem and a sincere, fraternal readiness to assist Lebanon and help its people liberate their land, restore their sovereignty, and regain their independent national decisionmaking power.

Al-Khatib Discusses Appointment, Policies

Comments on 'Awn Remark

NC1711213988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Acting Army Commander Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib has described the decision [by Michel 'Awn] to refer him to court as a joke in poor taste. Speaking for the Lebanese Television Channel 7's program "Behind the News," Al-Khatib described the recent promotions in the Army ranks as a bribe.

Al-Khatib said that his appointment was meant to benefit, not to divide, the Army. Al-Khatib said that he would coordinate with the militias in confronting the Israeli enemy, but not in matters of internal security. Al-Khatib said that Syria wishes to withdraw its forces that are manning the checkpoints as soon as the Army brigades are reorganized. Al-Khatib said armament policy should be determined by the government and not the Army command. He added that the Army is not going to be neutral in the Arab-Israeli conflict in the future. Our ambition is to have a resisting army, he stated.

Calls for Unity of Army

NC1811080588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Staff Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, Army commander designate, issued his first order of the day yesterday. He said: On 23 September 1988 an anomalous political situation was born in the country when the former president of the Republic, under pressure from the de facto powers, violated the country's constitutional norms and practices. This created a grave partitionist situation for which the former Army commander [General Michel 'Awn] is partly responsible.

In view of this painful situation, the country's legitimate authority, represented by the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, was compelled to authorize me to carry out the duties of Army commander.

Addressing Army personnel, Brig Gen al-Khatib said: I tell you that the Lebanese Army, in all its brigades, departments, and institutions throughout the country, is one indivisible unit. We are all brothers in arms. Our aim is to protect Lebanon against Israeli ambitions directed against its waters, land, and sovereignty, to fortify its Arab character against doubters, hirelings, and agents, and to safeguard the citizens' freedom, property, and dignity. [passage omitted]

Brig Gen al-Khatib added: O military men, you have brothers who entered Lebanon in 1976 to support you at the request of your government and the Arab League. I mean your brothers in the Syrian Arab Army. You should cooperate and coordinate with them according to military ethics and within the framework of pan-Arab brotherhood. You should realize that safeguarding internal and national security is essentially your task alone. So prepare yourselves to resume this role and afterward we will complete the march—the march of resistance and liberation—side by side and in one trench with the Syrian Arab Army.

Brig Gen al-Khatib went on to say: The national militias are your allies in the confrontation with the Israeli enemy and their tools. The Lebanese Army refuses to remain neutral in the struggle against and confrontation with the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Views Al-Khatib Appointment

NC1711142888 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has said that the measures being taken by the legitimate government are temporary and that everything will return to normal once the situation itself is normal again. He noted that Brigadier General al-Khatib's mission will end when the Army commander is back and that the same [not further specified] applies to the public security directorate.

Interviewed on the radio tour program, Al-Rasi asserted that Brig Gen al-Khatib was assigned to reorganize Army brigades because the Army command's past practices have resulted in differences in each brigade. He wondered: What harm is there when these brigades conduct their duties in the domestic field and confront the Israeli enemy? He noted that this measure is not aimed against any Lebanese. It is a difficult step, and we will endeavor to reach the target, he concluded.

Al-Husayni Views Ties With Syria, Elections

PM1811102488 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Nov 88 pp 19-20

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Shirbil Zughayb; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Lebanese-Syrian relations have been subject to discussion since events began in 1975. How can the suspicion by some Lebanese that Syria is seeking to swallow up Lebanon be eliminated? And how can Syria be assured that Lebanon will not become a center for conspiracies against it?

Al-Husayni: It would be foolish for anyone of sound mind to believe that Syria needs land to annex. It possesses vast areas of land, and this makes such ideas sound foolish—assuming the absence of malicious intent.

AL-HAWADITH: You accuse transitional government head Michel 'Awn of hampering all solutions for personal and presidential reasons. Why did such solutions not succeed before General 'Awn moved into the B'abda Palace?

Al-Husayni: I believe there is nobody who does not remember the campaigns and attacks launched against our position on support for the Lebanese Army and Gen 'Awn in his capacity as Army commander. This was out of concern for the military institution and its role, which is parallel to the legitimate authority's role. It is known that the Army institution is the legitimate authority's executive tool. When it is strong it can back the Chamber of Deputies' efforts to take the necessary measures with a view to holding the presidential elections, thus affirming legitimacy in Lebanon, or the measures in connection with the main objective, namely, to restore state control over the whole of Lebanese territory—which is the foremost national objective. This is the Army's mission, namely, to protect the homeland.

Everyone knows from my strategy that the solution to the Lebanese crisis is to establish a strong central government and to dispatch the Lebanese Army to the South to implement the international resolutions stipulating Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. For all these reasons the Army is a necessity, a fundamental necessity. On this basis, we have frequently urged the militias not to interfere in people's lives or with the state's ports and amenities. That is why the Army under Gen Michel 'Awn was called on to restore state authority via administrative Beirut. [passage omitted]

But parliamentary work has now lost the legitimate executive tool: After Gen 'Awn's having been the main factor in making the election a success, I would say that he is now the main obstacle to it. This is because Gen 'Awn now says: Elect me president of the Republic and then we will draw up a security plan. If you do not elect me, why should the elections be held? He is happy about his present position and seeks to reach the president of the Republic's seat in B'abda Palace as quickly as possible. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to the presidential elections, do you believe they will be held? When and on what basis?

Al-Husayni: There is international U.S.-Soviet detente, which simply means that when there is international tension, the armies of the major countries do not fight each other directly. In fact they exploit all areas of tension and regional conflicts to express such tension. But when international detente prevails, it would be in its interest that regional conflicts be eliminated. Thus international detente must obviously embody an important factor, namely, the settlement of regional conflicts. Under this international detente, which constitutes a golden opportunity for Lebanon, U.S.-Syrian talks took place without overlooking the regime's deliberate obstruction to all solutions. [passage omitted]

The idea that the U.S.-Syrian agreement concerns one individual is actually designed to conceal the truth to prolong the crisis and kindle new wars at the expense of the Lebanese and their lives. The U.S.-Syrian agreement is between two parties: The United States—on the one hand as an international deputy, thanks to international detente, and on the other as the only party that wields influence over Israel—and Syria, which is the foremost credible Arab state with the capacity to act and whose strategic and geographical position can help it to maintain its strategy.

This is the U.S. agreement. In general, it poses no burden to Lebanon. In fact the burden lies on the shoulders of both the United States and Syria. Lebanon will benefit from the atmosphere of international detente and from U.S. and Syrian efforts and their ability to achieve the objective we seek—first and foremost to enable Lebanon to resolve its crisis as the first step to resolving the region's crisis, but without linking the Lebanese issue to the regional issue. This has been the strategy adopted by all Lebanese without exception. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There is a missing link in the U.S.-Syrian agreement: Either those who obstruct the agreement are actually stronger than international and regional detente, or the international deputy is unable to enforce the agreement.

Al-Husayni: It is clear that Israel has reduced its demands as a result of international pressure. It now says that it will withdraw once there is a strong central government in Lebanon capable of sending the Lebanese Army to the South. [passage omitted]

While saying this, it continues to interfere to prevent us from establishing a strong central government and sending the Army to the South. This is proved by the continuing damages inflected on the structure of the Army, the institutions, and the state.

Here I would say that this is the Americans' responsibility. We understand that the U.S. Administration has the right to give precedence to its elections and domestic work for a certain period of time, but after the elections the Americans must play their main role, namely, preventing Israel from interfering in our affairs, kindling sedition, and obstructing us. [passage omitted]

Syrian Army To Withdraw From West Beirut

NC1711180088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency reports that the Syrian Army will begin to withdraw from West Beirut streets and assemble in Khaldah. However, it will keep a symbolic force consisting of a 500-man battalion in West Beirut, the agency adds. It also says that the military command formed by Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to organize the nationalist brigades in the western area has prepared a comprehensive plan for this organization and for these brigades' military, supply, operational, and equipment requirements.

The agency notes that Brig Gen al-Khatib's next measure will be the replacement of the current brigade commanders under his control. According to the agency, the reorganization will involve the appointment of Brig Gen Ghassan Dahir as the operations room's deputy chief of staff, a post which he had held in the National Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzah. Brig Gen Sa'id Qa'qur will be chosen for another as yet unknown post. Brig Gen Hammud al-Khatib is to be appointed director of administration and finance in the nationalist army, assisted by Captain Mahmud al-Husami.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1711142388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] At approximately 1540 today Israeli war planes overflew Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Popular Liberation Army, 'Agent' Militia Clash

NC1711183188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving the use of heavy-caliber machineguns are going on along the Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Kafr Falus axis between fighters manning the Popular Liberation Army—Ma'ruf Sa' positions and agent militiamen.

In the meantime, Israeli gunboat movements have been monitored off the southern and Sidon coasts. Israeli warplanes have also carried out several sorties over Sidon and its camps.

Israeli Forces 'To Dispense' with Lahd Militia

NC1811130388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Reports indicate that the Israeli occupation authorities have gradually begun to dispense with the militia of agent Lahd, especially in the security field.

According to the reports, the Israelis began to take over Lahd positions in the Bint Jubayl and Marj 'Uyun districts after the assassination attempt on agent Lahd. The same reports add that Israeli forces have recently been sent to the Jazzin area to replace the Lahd militia there. All these activities are part of a plan to dispense with the role of the Lahd militia. The militia has failed in its mission to stop infiltration attempts by resistance fighters, who have penetrated deep into the occupied area, as is proved by the Kafr Killa operation and the shooting of agent Lahd in his home in Marj 'Uyun.

Gunmen Attempt To Infiltrate UN Position

NC1811063288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] UNIFIL official spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that four masked gunmen tried to enter a UN center under construction between the towns of Al-Mansuri and Majdal Zun in Tyre District yesterday. The gunmen managed to seize a rifle belonging to a member of the Nepalese contingent and fled when a Nepalese soldier opened fire.

Goksel said that the Nepalese contingent immediately established roadblocks in the area and contingent members later recovered the stolen rifle and ammunition.

Al-Biqa' Hit by Earth Tremor; No Casualties

NC1711144988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] An earth tremor shook Al-Biqa' at 0115 today. The quake, measuring 4.0 on the Richter Scale, caused panic among the residents who were awakened by what they first thought were explosions.

A reporter for the national news agency for information in the area said that the tremor, which lasted with considerable force in Ba'labakk for 60 seconds, has caused no loss of life.

Al-Asad Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

JN1711194388 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received Colonel 'Abdallah Hijazi, envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya. Col Hijazi conveyed to the president a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Government Policy Supports Palestinian State

JN1711114888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN says that official source's assertion yesterday that the establishment of the Palestinian state is consistent with Syria's policy, with the Arab summit resolutions, and with the international legitimacy embodies our country's constant stand in support of the Palestine question which was and is still the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

In its editorial today, the newspaper adds that this assertion constitutes the crux of the Syrian position and its pan-Arab approaches as well as its action in the arena of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and its expanionist, hostile designs.

The newspaper notes that by warning against the dangers of pursuing illusions and capitulatory settlements, Syria protects the Palestinian issue from the liquidation conspiracies and fortifies the Palestinian stand in the face of illusions and suspicious liquidatory designs.

The paper refers to the hostile Zionist trend, which has become more vicious, terrorist, and hostile in repelling the uprising, and to this trend's adherence to its expansionist racist policy and its rejection of a just peace based on the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights. It asserts that unifying the Palestinian arena on a solid militant basis and supporting the popular uprising and Arab resistance in the face of Israeli occupation are the right path to regain the land and wrench rights.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that these militant national and pan-Arab duties form the axis of the efforts of Syria, which offered and continues to offer every possible sacrifice to thwart the Zionist onslaught and achieve a just and durable peace in the region on the bases stressed by Syria's constant pan-Arab policy, the Arab summit resolutions, and the international legitimacy embodied by the UN resolutions.

General Talas Addresses War College Graduates

JN1811082888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] A new batch of war college graduates was celebrated under President Al-Asad's patronage yesterday. Deputizing for the president in the graduation ceremony was General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister.

Gen Mustafa Talas delivered a speech at the beginning of which he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the graduates and his wishes of success in performing their militant tasks. He said: It is a happy occasion that your graduation from the school of manhood and sacrifice coincides with our masses' celebrations on the 18th anniversary of the corrective movement. This movement was unleashed by our party's bases led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. With this, our country began a militant phase in order to bring about great achievements and realize victory in the October war of liberation.

The representative of the ceremony's sponsor asserted that events have proven that Al-Asad's Syria still has consistent policy on and analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This will turn Syria's call to build a comprehensive Arab strategy into a pressing pan-Arab demand. Moreover, this demand will support the occupied homeland's revolution and its valiant uprising in order to liberate the land and extricate the usurped Arab rights.

Gen Talas also asserted that the only option for Arabs is struggle. He said: The path followed by Al-Asad's Syria is the right one because it is the path of strength and dignity. He pointed to leader Al-Asad's remarks that Syria is determined to confront the hostile onslaught with its various possibilities by all means. Syria will continue to be fully prepared to offer all sacrifices in the face of any imperialist conspiracy designed to undermine the freedom of both the Syrian people and the Arab nation.

Addressing the graduate officers, Gen Talas said: You should genuinely endeavor to attain the highest levels of combat preparedness on the path of realizing strategic parity with the Zionist enemy. Afterward, he announced the General Command's approval of naming the session after hero martyr Major 'Ali Muhammad al-Zayyat who sacrificed his blood for the homeland while carrying out his duty in fraternal Lebanon in June 1982.

Afghanistan

Sharq Delivers Report on USSR, UN Visits

LD1711185288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Report by Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq delivered at the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Wolasi Jirgah in Kabul on 16 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed chairman and members of the Wolasi Jirgah: I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks on behalf of all members of the government and myself for your attendance in today's session. [passage omitted]

To ensure constant contact with parliament the government recently appointed Minister Councillor Faqir Muhammad Yaqubi in charge of government-parliamentary affairs. By this act we are hoping to ensure an improvement in the exchange of views and documents between parliament and the government. The purpose of our participation in today's session is to achieve reciprocal understanding and to observe the principle of government reporting to parliament. We hope to increase these contacts in the future.

The purpose of the participation in today's session by some cabinet members and myself is to present to you, esteemed delegates of the Wolasi Jirgah, a report on my recent visit to the Soviet Union and to the United Nations in the United States. This report is in two parts, beginning with the first visit: the first was my official and friendly visit 18-22 September to the Soviet Union in response to an official invitation by His Excellency Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. [passage omitted] I had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and to discuss bilateral relations, the domestic situation, and international aspects of our country's problems, as well as other subjects of mutual interest.

At this long meeting with His Excellency Gorbachev we fully assessed the various stages of the development of traditional and friendly relations between our people and countries. The similarity of views and conclusions drawn from the assessment of the development of friendly and reciprocal relations led us to believe that there are grounds to consolidate further these traditional relations between our people and countries.

At this meeting His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev said that the policy of national reconciliation in the present circumstances and despite the irreconcilable position of the extremists must be vigorously stressed, as the victory of this policy means the broadening and consolidation of Afghanistan's position as a neutral, nonaligned, independent, and active member of the Nonaligned Movement.

Both sides were in complete agreement that Afghanistan, by implementing the policy of national reconciliation and through the establishment of a coalition government built on a broader social basis, must become a full participant around the international table in order to respond to the interests of both countries—Afghanistan and the Soviet Union—as well as India and the Islamic countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, Pakistan, United States, and all international society.

During this meeting the issue of violations of the Geneva accords by the other parties who signed these accords was discussed in detail. Both sides expressed their opinion that the continuation of these violations prolongs the pain and calamity of the Afghan nation and brings about the [word indistinct] losses of innocent people in the (?country).

At this meeting a detailed discussion was also held on crucial issues relating to the military situation in the Republic of Afghanistan, including Soviet assistance, and the issue of gratis aid from that country which will be placed at the disposal of the people of Afghanistan.

During their stay in Moscow the Afghan delegation also held official and detailed talks on various aspects of relations between the two countries with His Excellency N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other high-ranking officials accompanying him.

These talks centered on expanding traditional friendly relations, reciprocal advantageous economic, technical, and commercial cooperation between the two countries, and observing the principles of goodneighborliness between our people and countries. Highly productive agreements were concluded in these areas.

In fully perceiving our explanation about the existing financial and economic difficulties in the country, the opposite side gave a positive and generous reply to our demands. Agreements were reached in the following areas:

1. The Soviet Union agrees to allocate the sum of 270 million rubles, equivalent to $432 million, as an outright gift in the form of consumer commodities for 1 year beginning March 1989 to meet the vital and immediate needs of our people and to finance a portion of the government budget. From this sum 120 million rubles is to be placed at the disposal of Afghanistan through bilateral and direct cooperation, and the remaining 150 million through the extraordinary UN assistance to Afghanistan.

2. The Soviet Union has approved the granting of foreign currency credit to the amount of $300 million for the balance of payments and foreign trade of Afghanistan.

3. It has been agreed that the payments of debts due to be paid in 1989 will be postponed for another 10 years [words indistinct].

4. Agreement has been reached on the granting of long-term credit to the value of 300 million rubles, equivalent to $480 million. This will be (?used) for carrying out primary work in long-term programs of economic, commercial, and technical cooperation. From this sum, 150 million rubles, equivalent to $240 million, is to be placed at the disposal of Afghanistan to revive and rebuild the national economy and related projects.

5. The conclusion of a long-term program on economic, technical, and commercial cooperation until the year 2000 will cover the development of agriculture, irrigation, industries, mines, energy, transportation, communication, and social services.

6. A contract has been signed concerning Soviet-Afghan cooperation in training 1,500 men annually from the scientific cadres of our country, who will be dispatched to the educational institutions of the USSR for higher and vocational education. The documents relating to this agreement, valid for 5 years, were signed and exchanged.

7. It was agreed that the work period of the 21 advisers is to be extended for another 1 year because of the needs of the ministries and departments of the Republic of Afghanistan. It must be pointed out that these advisers are merely experts in technical fields.

8. Direct cooperation between the Soviet Union and those Afghan provinces that need the assistance from the point of view of working conditions and that can use the assistance will be better organized [words indistinct]. For this purpose the Soviet Union has agreed to allocate the sum of 50 million rubles, equivalent to $80 million, as an outright grant to assist the provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

9. During the talks the Soviet Union expressed its readiness to assist Afghanistan in transporting supplies connected with the UN extraordinary program for the returnees via Soviet territory and utilizing the country's transportation facilities with a total value of $80 million.

The total assistance by the Soviet Union that will be given to Afghanistan through the UN extraordinary assistance program will total $600 million. This figure is in addition to the Soviet Union's direct and bilateral assistance to Afghanistan.

10. The handing over of townships and military installations left behind after the Soviet withdrawal is expected to be free of charge.

11. The Soviet side has expressed its interest in strengthening technical and economic relations with the Afghan private sector and its willingness to create joint projects and [words indistinct] commerce with the private sector and national traders of Afghanistan.

During talks with his excellency the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, which were also attended by His Excellency Shevardnadze, the foreign minister; Murakhovskiy, first deputy prime minister; Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister, who at present is the ambassador and extraordinary representative to the Republic of Afghanistan; and a number of other high ranking state and government personalities, we agreed that our discussions were a clear manifestation of the inclination and readiness of both sides to expand and consolidate cooperation between the peoples and governments of our countries. In this way the friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the national and international areas will be strengthened.

During our visit to the Soviet Union, we took the opportunity to hold comprehensive talks with high ranking authorities of the Tajik SSR, Uzbek SSR, Turkamen SSR, and the Soviet cities of Moscow and Leningrad concerning their broad cooperation with the provinces and cities of Afghanistan. I believe you esteemed delegates would have studied the progress of that visit of (?peace) along with the joint communique by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which was issued at the end of the visit. We view the results of this visit very constructive and highly fruitful and are confident it will result in creating new horizens in continuing to expand the friendly relations between our peoples and countries. On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, I again express thanks for the warm friendly welcome of our Soviet friends.

Esteemed delegates of the Wolasi Jirgah, the second part of today's report concerns the visit by the Afghan delegation under my leadership to the UN Headquarters in New York from 31 October-12 November. [passage omitted] The purpose of the visit, which took place when matters concerning Afghanistan were being (?discussed) by the 43d United Nations General Assembly session, was to take part, if necesary, in these talks and for Afghanistan to be represented at a higher level.

Fortunately, as a result of an understanding reached earlier between the interested parties, the United Nations General Assembly refrained from additional discussion of the subject and unanimously approved the text of a resolution prepared during previous consultations. It was the first time that the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution with the understanding of all parties concerned without additional voting and debate.

Because in accordance with Clause 8 of the resolution of the 43d United Nations General Assembly session the need for negotiations among the Afghans and the creation of a broad-based government were stressed, I held talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar during my stay in New York. We discussed the present situation in the country and the developments in connection with the national [word indistinct], the realization of the national reconciliation policy, and the efforts of the

Republic of Afghanistan to create a coalition government with broad social bases. At the meeting I drew the UN secretary general's attention to the irresponsible approach to the Geneva accords of the opposite side and informed him of the proposal of the Republic of Afghanistan to convene a meeting of the UN Security Council to seek ways to enforce the observation of and to effectively preserve the accords.

During the meeting with the UN secretary general I submitted a proposal by the Republic of Afghanistan for an international conference to implement and guarantee the neutrality of Afghanistan, to demilitarize the country under international supervision, and to establish an international program for the country's reconstruction and socioeconomic development, as well as to guarantee the complete and serious observation of Afghan citizens' human rights, including the provision of the requisite conditions for free utilization of political freedoms.

The UN secretary general stressed that he will spare no efforts in performing the duties the international community have given him in connection with Afghanistan. He assured us that the UN goodwill efforts regarding the implementation of the Geneva accords will continue until their complete realization. He promised to exert greater efforts to obtain international cooperation on Afghanistan within the UN program of economic and social assistance to Afghanistan. He also expressed his readiness to place all his facilities at Afghanstan's disposal in order to bring about reconciliation and understanding among Afghans and to prepare the basis for the formation of broad-based government. We deem our talks with the Un secretary general as positive, beneficial, and constructive.

During our stay in New York, we met with a number of Afghans living in the United States. During these meetings we informed them about the current situation in the country and the efforts and proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan toward ending the war and fratricide, and the efforts aimed at forming a coalition government with broad social bases. The result of these talks and meetings with those Afghans residing in the U.S. is that they are very anxious and interested in the concerns of the people and their efforts to end the war and fratricide, and are looking forward to returning to a peaceful Afghan, free from war. [passage omitted]

At the news conference we categorically stated that the Government of Afghanistan is ready to exert all its efforts to create a coalition government with the participation of all strata of Afghan society. We have declared our readiness to hold talks with all sides. We have stated that in our opinion the solution of the country's problems through the convocation of a grand assembly would be possible only when the agenda for preliminary talks on the type of convocation and program of a grand assembly and its agenda is agreed upon by all sides, and when the conditions for a ceasefire during the convocation of such talks are declared and observed by all sides. We expressed confidence that by sitting down to negotiate, we will be able to resolve all our problems without feeling obliged to convene a grand assembly. On the other hand, we are ready to share efforts with them in holding a grand assembly.

The results of our visit to the UN Headquarters could be described overall as satisfactory and fruitful, the influences of which would, with God's will, be felt in the future. I would like now to thank the U.S. authorities for the comfort and security of our delegation. On our return home, our delegation was warmly welcomed by the State and Government of the CSSR. We held friendly meetings with G. Husak, president of the CSSR, and [name indistinct], deputy prime minister of the CSSR. We also attended a luncheon which was hosted by the prime minister of the CSSR in honor of the Afghan delegation. [passage omitted]

Esteemed members of the Wolasi Jirgah, I am grateful to you to for your patience while I briefed you on our visit. In my opionion such visits could help us in alerting international public opinion to the situation around the country and in finding peaceful ways for freeing ourselves from these problems.

I am confident that we will continue our meetings with you. Thank you for your attention.

122d Note Charges Airspace Violation

LD1711064788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 16, BAKHTAR—The 122nd notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The notice underlined three instances of the violation by Pakistani plane into the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan and asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations according to Paragraph No. 7, Document No. 4 of the Geneva agreements and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general representative.

123d Note on Attack on Newsmen

LD1811073688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0449 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 17, BAKHTAR—The one hundred twenty third note of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva agreements was submitted today to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

In the note stress is made that Pakistan through the delivery of long-range rockets to extremists has paved the ground for the extremist attacks on establishments of public utility, populated areas, supply routes and highways of the country.

The criminal extremists attacked by rockets on a number of foreign journalists on the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway, at a distance two kilometers from the Towr Kham custom house, yesterday. As a result of which six journalists from India, France, Soviet Union and Japan were wounded.

The note asks UNGOMAP that it according to the provisions of Article seven, Document Number four, of Geneva agreements investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

BAKHTAR Cited on Armed Forces Operations
LD1711000188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting authoritative sources in the Armed Forces, the BIA reports that, as a result of crushing and resolute blows by the country's Armed Forces, as many as 505 extremists were killed and 339 wounded in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Herat, Paktia, Badakhshan, Balkh, and Zabol Provinces over the past 24 hours.

As a result of the Armed Forces' mopping up operations on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway, 142 extremists were exterminated, more than 150 wounded, and 4 taken prisoner. The following items were captured: 1 gun, 1 rocket launcher, 3 [word indistinct] weapons, 4 heavy vehicles, 4 light vehicles, 50 boxes of DShK ammunition, 121 gun shells, 104 mortar shells, and 30 boxes of ZG-1 ammunition. Two sets of reactive launchers, 1 mortar, 4 recoilless guns, 1 DShK machinegun, and 13 fortified enemy positions were destroyed.

In another operation in (Momandara) District, Nangarhar, 60 extremists were killed and 12 wounded. Also, one radio set and hundreds of rounds of various types of ammunition were captured, according to a telephone call from our correspondent in Jalalabad:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Dear listeners to Radio Afghanistan. We are reporting from the local radio station in the city of Jalalabad. Dear listeners, during a mopping up operation along the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway by the 522th State Security Battalion, the country's Armed Forces inflicted fatal blows on the extremists in the areas of (Marko) and Hazar Now in (Momandara) District. During the operations 5 Chinese Kalashnikovs, 3 Chinese mortars, 11 303-rifles, 3 rocket launchers, 30 rockets, 1 (?M-31) U.S. radio set, a large amount of ammunition for light and heavy weapons, and some vehicles were captured. We interviewed the commander of state security Battalion No 522, Major (Sher Agha). [passage indistinct] [end recording]

According to another report from Nangarhar, a group associated with Gulbuddin, headed by ('Abdulwasi'), was crushed in the (Hesarshahi) area in Robat District, Nangarhar Province. The extremists who plundered government establishments along the Kabul-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway came under crushing blows by the Armed Forces. Their stongholds were destroyed and the Afghan flag once again was hoisted with special military ceremonies. The extremists and Islamabad sources conceded today that the Afghan troops have recaptured the establishments of Towr Kham, its customs posts, and other posts along the highway to Jalalabad, which were looted by the so-called mujahidin. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS also reported it, quoting Islamabad sources.

Forty-seven people were killed and eight vehicles carrying arms and ammunition and four Stinger rockets belonging to the extremists were destroyed in Teyonuran, [word indistinct], Daman, Arghandab, and (Sarpoza) areas in Qandahar Province. In a mopping up operation in the (Towr Kotal) area 7 foreign advisers, including 1 Arab adviser and 11 Pakistani militia, were crushed.

The country's Armed Forces destroyed the extremists' strongholds in the areas of (?Koshk) and Pashtun (Zarghon), Herat Province. As a result, 24 extremists were killed and 19 wounded.

The Armed Forces captured 20 surface-to-surface missiles, 21 mortar shells, and thousands of types of ammunition in Balkh District in Balkh Province.

As many as 218 extremists were killed and 157 wounded in (Zadran) District and on the periphery of Gardeyz city, Kowt-e 'Ashrow in Vardak Province, and Qalat in Zabol Province. One set of reactaive (?missiles), two guns, (?three DShK's), and five vehicles carrying arms and ammunition belonging to the extremist elements were destroyed.

Another report says the extremists, enemies of our people's calm and peaceful life, fired 280 rockets at Gardyez, Rod-i (Ahmadzai), and Seyyed Kharam District, martyring two adults and wounding four children. As many as 2 mosques, 3 schools, 36 houses, and 11 shops were damaged.

Another report says that in the past 2 days armed extremists attacked the city of Jalalabad with 17 rockets. One compatriot was martyred and three others, including women and children, were wounded.

Armed Forces Spokesman Describes Operations
LD1711202988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, the BIA reports that the warmongering extremists were confronted with crushing blows by the country's Armed Forces today and yesterday in a number of provinces.

The armed extremists lost about 200 of their men and a large number of their weapons and ammunition as a result of long range missile fire which hit the extremists' concentration ponts in (Panjgar) region, (Tarkani) District, Konarha Province, and in the region of (Dehna), Batsawul District, Nangarhar Province.

As a result of a mopping up operation by the Armed Forces in the area around Gardeyz city, and in the environs of Zarmal and (Zaddran) Districts, Paktia Province, 51 armed extremists, including 6 of their ringleaders, were killed and another 120 injured.

As a result of crushing blows inflicted by the Armed Forces on armed extremists' concentration points in (Towr Kotal) region, surroundings of Daman District, and Takhteh Pol Subdistrict, Qandahar Province, 39 of the armed extremists who were disrupting the peaceful life of our compatriots in these regions were killed and 11 light wepaons with 19 [word indistinct] of ammunition, 244 shells of recoilless guns, 361 mortar shells, 26 boxes of ammunition for heavy machineguns, and 62 boxes of ammunition for DShK's were seized. Four transport vehicles, two reactive rocket missile units, one weapons and ammunition depot, and dozens of enemy hideouts were destroyed set a fire.

Six criminal extremists were crushed in the surroundings of Konduz Province; eight rockets and two their light weapons were seized.

One Pakistani adviser was killed in the (?Plateka) region of Baghlan Province and two of his guards were arrested. The warmongering extremists lost 50 men in the surroundings of Jowzjan Province as a result of Armed Forces operations.

The criminal extremists, supported by Pakistan and the United States, yesterday afternoon fired four surface-to-surface missiles on residential regions in Ward 4 of the city of Jalalabad. As a result of this barbarous act by the warmongering extremists, seven of our compatriots, including women and children, were martyred and another four were injured. The injured were taken to the hospital and treated; their condition is satisfactory.

India

Reportage on Mikhail Gorbachev's 3-Day Visit

Spokesman Previews Visit

BK1711163088 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1411 GMT 17 Nov 88

["Official Spokesman's Statement: Chairman Gorbachev's Visit To India"—ISI headline]

[Text] The broad thrust of the visit would be to try and build on the Delhi Declaration which was signed in November 1986. The Delhi Declaration articulated a certain world view, it held out certain expectations and expressed some hopes. What this visit will do is to see how we can carry forward the vision of the Delhi Declaration as enunciated by the two leaders.

You will recall that the Delhi Declaration went into considerable detail about the question of disarmament. The current visit will try and examine what has been done in the last two years towards achieving a non-violent and non-nuclear world. Both India and the Soviet Union have been active in this field in the intervening years. The special session on disarmament was followed by the Indian Action Plan and we would like to examine, along with the Soviets, how far we have been able to achieve the goals that we set for ourselves in November 1986 and thereafter.

I think you can safely assume that in view of the Soviet president's impending visit to the United States, the two sides will discuss the relationship between the two superpowers as it has developed and the likely shape that these relations may take with the new administration in the United States, which is shortly to be inaugurated. In view of our prime minister's visit to China, discussions with the Soviets will clearly focus on our developing relationship with China and the Soviet Union's relationship with that country.

On the bilateral front, we have to take into account the fact that perestroika has led to revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union. The entire structure of the Soviet economy is undergoing a change. The old monolithic structures appear to be loosening if not breaking down. We would examine, with the Soviet leadership and the Soviet delegation, how India could utilise opportunities presented to us by these historic changes in order to improve economic cooperation between our two countries and improve our trade with them. We will be discussing in some depth questions of technology transfer, setting up of hotel projects and we would like to hear from the Soviet side their plans for development of the eastern part of the Soviet Union and Siberia, where we believe there might be considerable scope for cooperation between the two countries. As you know, India suffers from shortage of power and this is an area which we will be examining along with the Soviet side in some detail. We would like to see how far we can go along with the Soviets, in developing the power sector in our country.

Because of the ever-increasing relationship at the government-to-government level during the last 40 years, there has also grown, side by side, a people to people relationship which is not as extensive and intense as it should be. We will be examining on this occasion possibilities of increasing such people to people contact across the board. We have had very successful cultural festivals in the USSR and in India—the Festival of India in the USSR and the USSR Festival in India. Both these festivals have been a great success. They have brought both peoples together. We are considering the opening of

a cultural centre in Moscow and possibly one in Tashkent. All these things will be discussed between two sides. Other ideas how to expand our cultural relations will also be discussed.

The existing close political relationship between the two governments will be reinforced by intensive economic cooperation and by expanding the horizons of people to people contact.

Gorbachev Itinerary Outlined

BK1811033188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet president, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, arrives in New Delhi around noon [0630 GMT] on a 3-day official visit. Before emplaning for New Delhi, Mr Gorbachev told the deputy chief of the Indian mission at Moscow that he looked forward to the talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, though his visit is short. Mr Gandhi will call on Mr Gorbachev today. The president, Mr Venkataraman, will host a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary and the accompanying delegation tonight.

Tomorrow, the full delegations of the two countries will meet, which will be followed by the second round of talks between Mr Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev. The two leaders will again meet over a private dinner hosted by Mr Gandhi. On Sunday [20 November] there will be a fourth and final round of talks between them followed by signing of various protocols on cooperation in economy, power, culture, and related fields. Mr Gorbachev will also meet the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

The Indira Gandhi International Award for Peace and Disarmament will be presented to the Soviet president during the visit. He will also attend tomorrow's closing ceremony of the year-long Soviet festival in India.

Mr Gorbachev is being accompanied by a high powered delegation which includes the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze; the deputy prime minister, Zakharov [name and title as heard]; the minister of culture, Mr Nishanov [name and title as heard]; the deputy foreign minister, Mr Rogachev; and several heads of cultural organizations.

Airport Arrival, Ceremony

BK1811075088 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0735 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day state visit. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including his wife, Mrs Raisa Gorbacheva, and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Sonia Gandhi welcomed them at the airport.

On arrival at the President's House, President Venkataraman welcomed them. Among the high dignitaries present on the occasion were union ministers and diplomatic representatives.

President Gorbachev was escorted to the main courtyard of the president's house by the president's mounted guard. A 21-gun salute was given in his honor. The Soviet president inspected the guard of honor composed of the three branches of the defense services. The national anthems of the two countries were also played.

Received by President Venkataraman

BK1811092188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, has arrived in New Delhi on a 3-day official visit. He is accompanied by Mrs Raisa Gorbacheva and a high level delegation, including the foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze.

At the airport he was warmly greeted among others by Mr Rajiv Gandhi; Mrs Sonia Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao; and the textiles minister, Mr Ram Nivas Mirdha. On arrival at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House], Mr Gorbachev was received by the president, Mr Venkataraman, and Mrs Janaki Venkataraman. Union ministers and diplomats also joined.

The Soviet president was given a 21-gun salute and he inspected an inter-services guard of honor. National anthems of the two countries were played.

In an informal chat with newsmen after the ceremonial reception, the Soviet leader described his visit as another major step in building Indo-Soviet relations. He said the Soviets value and cherish their relationship with India. He said: I am happy to be in India and once again moved by the warm reception and welcome accorded to us.

Earlier, a decked up capital and its excited people gave the statesman a joyous welcome on his way from the airport. Thousands of school children fluttered the tricolor and the Soviet flag on both sides of the road.

The AIR correspondent, who witnessed the thronging crowd, reports that the response reflected genuine warmth.

Mr Gorbachev has a busy schedule during his stay. Prominent among his engagements are: four rounds of talks with the prime minister, receiving the prestigious Indira Gandhi International Award and attending the closing function of the year-long Soviet Festival in India.

The president, Mr Venkataraman, is hosting a banquet in honor of Mr Gorbachev tonight. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to call on the Soviet leader later in the day. All

India Radio will broadcast the banquet speeches of Mr Gorbachev and the president, Mr Venkataraman, from 2310 [1740 GMT]. This can be heard on Delhi-B.

'Wide-Ranging' Talks With Gandhi

BK1811145988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, held wide-ranging discussions in New Delhi today with the emphasis on further strengthening Indo-Soviet cooperation and friendship. During the deliberations, lasting over 2 hours 25 minutes, they exchanged views on important developments that have taken place in the two countries and many changes in the international environment since the two leaders last met.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks, an official spokesman said the discussions, held without any aides, covered perestroika and focussed on the process of renewal that has characterized the Soviet economy in the last few years. The review in this regard also covered economic policies pursued by India. About bilateral relations, both Mr Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev explored avenues whereby cooperation and friendship between the two countries could further serve their interests.

PRK's Hun Sen on Nonaligned Role in Conflict

BK1711160788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Kampuchean prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, has stressed the need for the role of the Nonaligned Movement in finding a solution to the Kampuchean problem. Speaking to newsmen before leaving New Delhi after a 2-day official visit, Mr Hun Sen said NAM has taken a number of steps toward this direction.

4 'Terrorists,' 2 Policemen Killed in Amritsar

BK1711161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, four hard-core terrorists and two policemen were killed in an encounter in Ajnala area of Amritsar District this evening. The director general of the state police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told AIR Chandigarh correspondent that the four terrorists fired at and injured two policemen who were on patrol duty on motorcycle near village Konke. The injured policemen took up positions and returned the fire. They also called for more reinforcements on wireless.

In the encounter which lasted about an hour, the four terrorists were killed and the two policemen later succumbed to their injuries. Three of the four killed terrorists have been identified as the dreaded terrorists Baj Singh alias Baja, Saheb Singh alias Saba, and Pujari. The fourth is yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, security forces have arrested seven more terrorists and their harborers during raids in Jullundur and Ludhiana Districts.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Troops in Ahvaz

LD1711161288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 Gmt 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] We begin this hour's news reports with remarks by the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The remarks were made in the morning ceremony of the joint Armed Forces in Ahvaz.

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis], took part in this morning's ceremony of military and security forces in the barracks of the 92d Armored Division in Ahvaz. Referring to the all-out defense of the Iranian nation during the 8-year-long aggression of world arrogance, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Today we are proud to be here in the same garrison where in the early days of the war our forces with their resistance halted the advance of the enemy.

He added: At present, we have reached a point where those who did not wish to accept the Islamic Republic and velayat-e faqih [the system of the rule of the supreme jurisconsult] in the past have now been forced to humbly acknowledge this fact. Today no power in the world hides its deep desire to establish relations and to have friendship with Iran.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces also added: Today America has submitted, because Iran is not prepared to talk to it, because contrary to international principles it has renewed its law to keep Iranian assets frozen—as it has for the last 10 years—for 1 more year, using the excuse that this nation is not prepared to accept the United States imposed decisions.

In another part of his speech, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: Experience has demonstrated that we have no option but to be powerful and invincible. Therefore, all the forces should remove all the weaknesses they discovered in the course of the war and should improve their training.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces arrived in Susangerd this morning to participate in the ceremonies of 16 November, the anniversary of the breaking of the seige of Susangerd. He was warmly welcomed by the Friday imams of Ahvaz and Susangerd, the governor general of Khuzestan, members of the clergy, the representative of the people of Susangerd in the Majlis, and the brave tribesmen of the Dasht-e Azadegan region. [passage omitted]

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while praising the self-sacrifice of the tribesmen of the bloodstained region of Dasht-e Azadegan in the course of the imposed war, referred to the steadfastness and self-sacrifice of the people of that region in the face of the aggressions of the blasphemous Saddamists. He said: The Iraqi Ba'thists while attacking Khuzestan thought you attached greater significance to Arabism than to Islam and that Arabism was more important to you than Islam.

They attacked this region under the influence of this false assumption. However, the moment they entered this region they realized they were mistaken and delivered the first blow.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, referring to the crimes of the Iraqi regime in Dasht-e Azadegan, said: The massive participation of the people and the large number of martyrs offered by the people were a sign of the freedom and bravery of the people of this region. He said: Undoubtedly, in history Dasht-e Azadegan [the plain of the free people] will be written down as a place that has lived up to its name.

In another part of his speech, referring to the problems of the Dasht-e Azadegan region, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are aware of the depths of deprivation in this region; the people deserve to receive assistance in different fields. He expressed his hope that with government investments and the support of the people the destruction caused by the imposed war in that region will be repaired; and with the comprehensive plans which have been prepared for the country, including those prepared for the region of Dasht-e Azadegan, and with the construction of dams and roads this region will have a brilliant future.

In conclusion, he emphasized: In the course of the imposed war we engaged in a heroic resistance and today, too, we should continue that path of reconstruction and of building an Islamic Iran. We should eliminate the mutterings of disunity in the name of Arabs and Persians. Through unity, solidarity, and effort we will reconstruct this country, God willing, and we will restore Iranian pride.

Ahvaz, Central News Unit [end recording]

Majlis Speaker Addresses Dezful Air Force Base

NC1811074388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Acting Commander in Chief Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented a plaque inscribed with praise of the personnel of Dezful Air Base by Imam Khomeyni to the commander of the base yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, the commander of the base announced the readiness of the devoted personnel of the 4th Air Force base to continue to safeguard the gains of the Islamic revolution.

In a speech to the personnel of the base, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the devotion of the Air Force pilots. He said: Despite many limitations during the war, the Air Force was able to increase its strength by relying on domestic experts, and today we are proud of ourselves and of our Air Force.

The acting commander in chief added: Despite the 8 years of war and the loss of a number of aircraft, the Air Force continued to remain on the scene in full strength and it carried out its operations successfully. He declared: The Air Force should still remain strong so that no one will entertain any thoughts of attacking this country.

The acting commander in chief went on to call on Air Force personnel to use the experience gained during the war to strive for the rapid growth of the force.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the personnel of the base: What came as a surprise to the United States—the manufacturer of the equipment of the Air Force—is the fact that the Air Force has been able to stand on its own feet without the support of the United States, its supply center.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the acting commander in chief lauded the tireless Air Force personnel and stated that the country is proud that they were able to fully maintain and use what the Americans did not want them to have. He added: The United States thought that only its own military experts could control the advanced air systems. The Americans never thought that a nation could use these weapons against their own interests; otherwise, they would never have brought all these resources to this country.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then spoke about the role of the Air Force and its future, and pointed out: The government and the Majlis have seen the strength of the Air Force in the war. Thus, in the future, they will strive to complete its defensive and offensive chain and, God willing, with the support of the system, the Air Force will be one of the strongest forces in the region in the future.

Karrubi on 'Conspiracies' Against Palestine

LD1711131088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] At the open session of the Majlis today, Mr Mehdi Karrubi, deputy speaker of the Majlis, referred to the recent decision of the Palestine National Council and explained the conspiracies of the arrogant powers against the sacred territory of Palestine as well as the Muslim people of that country.

Then referring to the crimes and treason of the usurpers of holy Jerusalem, he said: Recognition of Israel and extending an invitation to the ring-leaders of infidelity

for negotiation will be tantamount to the waste of the blood of thousands of martyrs. This is a shame for a nation which has endured so much self-sacrifice.

The deputy speaker of the Majlis said: Progressive organizations, whether Palestinian or Lebanese, as well as those who believe that only through fighting can they attain their rights, have condemned this move. We too condemn this move. We expect that the perseverence and the resistance of the Palestinian nation, supported by the Islamic ummah, will see the day when the Palestinian nation returns home with greatness and dignity to set up its own state. Then no trace of the occupying Zionists will remain in that sacred territory.

Meanwhile, the Central News Unit reporter's dispatch says that at the Majlis session a letter was read out. It was addressed to the Majlis speaker and signed by more than 100 Majlis representatives. It condemned the recent PNC decision.

Part of the letter read: We signatories condemn the recent decision of the PLO leadership in Algeria in which the recognition of the Jerusalem-occupying regime has been accepted. We demand of the Muslims of the occupied territories and all thinkers of the world to adopt a revolutionary and revealing [as heard] position against the recent move by the compromising leaders of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Condemns Recognition of Israel

LD1711141188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] In a message the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation has condemned the recognition of the regime occupying Jerusalem and stressed: The true offspring of Islam and victimized Muslim Palestinians are determined and will continue to be determined to realize the divine aspiration of the Islamic nations through endeavor and self-sacrifice, armed with faith. They are determined to liberate holy Jerusalem from the clutches of the Zionist regime and to establish the Palestine Islamic state in all the occupied territories despite the opposition of the East and West and the superpowers, with the criminal America at their head.

Musavi-Ardabili Condemns Recognition of Israel

LD1811120788 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The chief justice today castigated the Palestine National Council (PNC) for recognizing Israel and said "Palestine is an Islamic land and nobody has the right, under any circumstances, to give even an inch of it to anyone or any power."

Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, terming Israel as a "cancerous tumor" for the Muslim world which he said should be eradicated, pledged Iran's full support for freedom struggles of all the oppressed nations, especially the Palestinians.

Addressing a huge crowd of worshippers at Tehran University campus and nearby streets, Musavi-Ardabili also lashed out at the big powers for their interventions in the internal affairs of Muslim countries such as Lebanon and Afghanistan.

The chief justice, saying that the time for the big powers to decide the fate of the oppressed nations was gone, called for the resumption of the Soviet troop pull-back from Afghanistan. Earlier in his first sermon, the substitute leader of Friday mass prayers of Tehran, pointing to the country's rehabilitation projects, said more attention should be paid to cultural and moral reconstruction to ensure the success of other reconstruction plans.

The first pre-sermon speaker at this week's Friday congregational prayers was head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim who commented on the Iraqi-imposed war and status of Iraqi revolutionary forces in Iraq.

Hakim said more than 250,000 Iraqi revolutionary Muslims have been imprisoned and one million others have fled from Iraq to various parts of the world to save their lives.

Despite a ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war (which went into effect on August 20), Iraqi opposition forces led by SAIRI will continue their struggles against the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq, Hakim vowed.

On his recently-concluded visit to Damascus, the SAIRI head said the aim of the trip was to make use of Syrian potentials for strengthening the struggle against the Baghdad regime.

He said his organization has come closer to Syria because that country not only enjoys good ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran but also has common political and strategic points with the Iraqi Muslim nation.

Further Comments on Outcome of Geneva Talks

NC1711125188 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] At the end of the third round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, our foreign minister, Dr Velayati, granted an exclusive interview to our correspondent in Geneva.

Dr Velayati said: During this round of talks that ended today, 11 tripartite meetings were held. He stated that the next round of talks will be held in December or January and that the exact date will be announced by the secretary general after his contacts with both sides.

In answer to our correspondent's question on the contents of the third round of talks, Dr Velayati said: No basic progress was achieved during the third round of talks. But the atmosphere of the talks, especially in the latter part of the round, was more positive.

Our correspondent asked: In your opinion, why was there no progress in the talks? Dr Velayati said: Iraq continued its obstructionism as before. It raised issues that were irrelevant to the topic under discussion and which violated the order in which the resolution should be implemented, and it tried to weaken the resolution.

Our correspondent asked: During this round of talks, Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, said that Iraq regards the resolution as an entirety but that Iran regards each and every article and believes that these articles should be implemented in the order that they appear. What is your opinion on this?

Dr Velayati said: Iraq is saying that the resolution should be regarded as a whole because it indirectly opposes the secretary general's four-point plan. In view of the priorities of the resolution, the secretary general proposed a four-point plan in October, on the basis of which, once Article 1 was completed, implementation of Articles 2 and 3 would begin, and we would enter the phase of implementing Article 4. The Iraqis said in New York that they would reply in Geneva. However, they did not give a clear answer in Geneva either, but found various faults in the plan and thus opposed it indirectly.

Our correspondent asked: Is Iraq's opposition political or legal in nature? Dr Velayati answered: Despite appearances, Iraq does not believe in Resolution No 598. Therefore, it tries to use this resolution unilaterally to meet its own ends and to implement those articles that are in concordance with its own intentions while, at the same time, it weakens those that are not. As the secretary general has tried to make his proposals symmetrical to include the desires of both sides, Iraq is trying to delay its implementation.

Our correspondent asked: What was Iraq's intention behind its announcement on releasing prisoners of war before the withdrawal of forces to the international borders?

Dr Velayati replied: Iraq's intention was to weaken the resolution and the secretary general's four-point plan. However, because the world is reacting negatively to it, it is trying—by raising the matter of releasing and exchanging prisoners as a separate issue—to assume a humanitarian face. However, the Iraqis have shown in their actions that they do not believe in and do not want to exchange prisoners.

On several occasions the Islamic Republic has released more prisoners than Iraq has, and Iran's unilateral release of prisoners has gone unanswered.

This shows which side is faithful to this humanitarian issue. Dr Velayati added: In the first round of talks before the ceasefire, the secretary general in New York proposed a timetable for implementing the resolution's articles. We accepted it. Among these articles was the one on the release of prisoners. Unfortunately, Iraq did not accept this. If it had, all the prisoners would have been released by now.

Our correspondent asked: What kind of support did the Security Council and its members extend to the secretay general in this round of talks? Have your expectations been met?

Dr Velayati said: The secretary general and his representative Mr Eliasson have done their best. But some Security Council members do not support the secretary general. This is what we have concluded. Some Security Council members do not extend the necessary support. If they do, then the situation will further improve. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Talks at Weekly 'Roundtable'
NC1711200188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1710 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Weekly political roundtable with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister, and Dr Sirus Naseri, permanent envoy to the United Nations, European Division, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. I greet all of you dear viewers of the weekly political roundtable and I wish success to each one you, my dear brothers and sisters. As you see, about 4 months have elapsed since the peace talks began between Iran and Iraq, but news concerning the peace talks continues to be in the headlines of our newspapers and those of other countries. [passage omitted]

Dr Velayati, prior to the commencement of the third round of talks in Geneva, there was an air of optimism regarding the talks, especially in domestic circles. This was increased by the comments of the UN secretary general, as he made some very hopeful remarks. However, the present atmosphere was not expected. Could you tell us, in view of these issues, what parameters [preceding word in English] were the cause of this sort of atmosphere?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Salutations to esteemed viewers. The emergence of such an atmosphere at home and, in principle, abroad, was, as you mentioned, due to the pervading conditions of the second session of talks in New York and the remarks of the secretary general. [passage omitted]

On 1 October, during the second round of talks, the UN secretary general presented a plan to the two sides at the tripartite session called the 4-point plan. We accepted it in principle. Iraq postponed its response until the convening of the third round of talks in Geneva. The UN secretary general's remarks and his propounding of a four-point plan which incorporated a relatively important part of the resolution, the absence of negative utterances by Iraq, and the welcome by the Islamic Republic of Iran was the cause of this air of optimism you mentioned. When the framework of the talks was clear, and it was anticipated that Iraq might respond to this proposal in a positive manner as a framework for the talks, this in itself generated optimism.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, we witnessed that in practice this optimism did not have any results and the talks did not make much progress. The issue here is that there is one resolution which has been accepted by both countries. The UN secretary general has presented a single plan which has been accepted by both the countries as a framework for proceeding. Still, the talks did not make much headway. What is the hitch? Is it technical or is there some other basic difference between the two countries?

[Velayati] The two countries accepted the resolution as well as the secretary general's plan. The approach of the two countries as regards the resolution is, however, different. Each views it from a different angle. [passage omitted]

Iraq's objectives are not a mere seeking of pretexts. Under the cover of issues removed from the resolution or irrelevant to the occasion, it is trying to attain certain objectives which stem from its internal problems in general. I mentioned this at the official session of the talks. I told the Iraqi side that this resolution is for establishing a durable, comprehensive, and honorable peace between the two countries, not for solving all the internal and external problems which may exist in the two countries. If they wish to resolve their problems, they should think about some other way. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Naseri, Mr Velayati referred to the Iraqi preconditions in the previous round of talks; that is, on the dredging of Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway], but we see that in the third round of talks, Iraq did not lay down any preconditions, nor did it announce any conditions for the implementation of Resolution No 598. This is being interpreted as new tactics on the part of Iraq to attain its earlier objectives. What is your opinion on this theory and what steps have been envisaged by the Islamic Republic of Iran to thwart these new tactics?

[Naseri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is untrue that Iraq did not repeat its preconditions in this round of talks, but it is correct that Iraq adopted a more mellow tone before the media and propaganda circles. Perhaps the reason for this was that it realized that when it stated its position harshly in the first round and announced its preconditions overtly as preconditions it faced problems. Now it considers it more advantageous to propound these issues in a different manner before the news media, so that it does not face similar problems. In practice, it still maintains its previous position, and it is for this reason that despite the optimism on the part of the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council over this round of talks, the work did not make any tangible progress. Iraq did not make any noticeable change in its official statements or its stance. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, you mentioned before that the talks are not progressing because Iraq is resorting to pretexts. Some believe that the postponement of talks will not benefit Iraq. They believe further that the superpowers are the ones seeking to obtain some concessions from Resolution No 598 and trying to thwart the progress of the talks to settle their own problems. For example, the Soviet Union wishes to resolve the issue of its presence in Afghanistan by means of the peace talks and Resolution No 598. I would like to know your opinion of this. Also, could you tell us the opinion of other countries, in particular the UN Security Council member states, regarding the progress of the peace talks?

[Velayati] If the countries involved, that is Iran and Iraq, can reach a proper compromise on the basis of Resolution No 598 between themselves and within the framework of the secretary general's plan, there will be no room for capitalizing on this by any individual or any country, including any power or superpower. However, with the creation of hindrances by one of the parties, the progress of the talks is impeded and the way is left open for all kinds of unscrupulous acts. Therefore, in order to prevent such avarice or evil designs by any country which may have any number of axes to grind, the best way would be correct and sensible talks between the two countries. As far as Iran is concerned, we have not laid down any preconditions or extra conditions for attaining peace on the basis of Resolution No 598, and we will not do so. This is not something that we merely profess. All those around the world who are following the course of the talks concur on this point. This is the secret, the symbol of Iran's viewpoint. This is its attitude toward the UN Secretariat and the UN secretary general, and the mass media are disseminating this reaction and feedback. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Naseri, as regards the inspection of ships in the Persian Gulf, it is being said that Iran has made some concessions to Iraq and that it will not inspect its ships. Regarding the exchange of POW's—on the basis of the agreement reached after the third round of talks took place—it was decided that the ill and wounded POW's of

the two countries may be exchanged. In view of the fact that a large number of Iranian POW's in Iraq have not been registered, and those who have been registered number two and a half to three times more than the Iraqi POW's in Iran who are ill or wounded, it appears that in this regard too we are awarding concessions to Iraq. What is your opinion on this?

[Naseri] I should say that in peace talks, a certain series of what may be called compromises or give and take, but not concessions in the real meaning of the term, are present and normal during the course of discussions. However, what you said is not correct. No agreement has been reached with Iraq as regards shipping. In fact, at present the real axis of the talks centers around the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders; that is, the borders as stated in the 1975 accord, which should have been carried out in conformity with the implementation of Resolution No 598 prior to all other measures. This is a compulsory, imperative, and obligatory issue.

As regards the freedom of shipping, it has been decided that discussions will take place at the proper juncture. Possibly, there will be some agreement on the issue. The question of freedom of shipping in Iraq's interpretation—that is, the ships should have right of passage without our being able to exercise our right to inspection—is one which is not possible at the present moment. The withdrawal of forces has not taken place, the trend of peace has not yet been consolidated, and it has not yet been established that the two countries are proceeding along a definite path toward the elimination of all hostilities.

Therefore, we have an absolute right, and it is very clear according to international regulations that ships bound for Iraqi ports will be inspected by us. This is our indisputable right. Now if we reach a point in our talks where other problems are ironed out, then it is possible that we will embark on discussions on this topic as well. However, no compromise has been reached on this issue until now, and therefore no concessions have been exchanged.

As far as POW's are concerned, we should view the issue from a humanitarian aspect, especially the ill and wounded. This issue has two aspects. There are military POW's in the two countries. For them it naturally follows that, with the cessation of hostilities, measures should have been taken for their exchange. This is because, if the hostilities do not cease, these POW's can be made to serve again by the respective country's armed forces. But as regards the ill and the wounded there is no such possibility.

They should be released in any case, whether from the point of view of humanitarian norms, or on the basis of the third 1949 Geneva convention pertaining to POW's, regardless of the conditions in the two countries. Even if the countries are engaged in active war and hostile activities, they should be released. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, I have another question in this regard. What has been established—and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran also reiterated this—is that the number of our POW's in Iraq is relatively greater than the number announced by Iraq. Therefore, there are two different aspects to this. If we wish to exchange an equal number of prisoners, we can exert pressure on Iraq saying that all the disabled Iraqi POW's can be released if a greater number of our POW's are released. What is your opinion on this?

[Velayati] It is necessary to point out, as an introductory remark, that the POW issue is a humanitarian issue. We do not wish to engage in political haggling on this issue. It is abhorrent to us and is in contravention of the humanitarian spirit of our colleagues' way of thinking regarding these talks. Our heartfelt wish is that we can have our POW's released in the shortest possible time, free from the restrictions of the political talks, from the conflict with the other side, and from the bargaining that is going on. That is, we should be able to pave the way in a manner that the Iranian and Iraqi POW's can return to their respective countries.

However, Iraq is approaching this issue as a political weapon. If it reaches a point that the discussion of the POW issue results in the Iraqis attaining their political objectives, it would be contrary to the spirit of the resolution and the wishes of the peace-loving people. It would also harm our humane, Islamic, and national interests. If these military POW's were to be released and then they placed themselves in the trenches against us, this would in reality be a factor in the destabilization of peace and the exacerbation of the military situation on the borders.

Therefore, we should be vigilant in case we keep in mind a humanitarian motive and we are confronted instead by a problematic and harmful situation which would eventually again place our people in danger. In order to justify their pretext-seeking, their procrastination, and their jumping from one issue to another, the Iraqis are propounding issues which would project a better image of themselves. All these issues and measures—bringing up the matter of POW's outside the resolution's framework and in an abnormal and impractical manner—have proved the policy of this country and this government, which indicates that they do not adhere to what they profess. [passage omitted]

If the Iraqis had accepted the secretary general's timetable for the release of the POW's as we did, in the same talks before the ceasefire when the UN secretary general presented his plan for a timetable. [sentence incomplete as heard] Iran accepted this plan with some suggestions for amendments which were approved by the Secretariat. The Iraqis did not accept it. If they had also accepted it, by now

all the POW's from both sides would have been released. No POW would have been left on either side. If they had even accepted the UN secretary general's four-point plan of 1 October, Clause 3 of which also pertains to the issue of POW's, again a large number of the POW's would have been released by now. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, in your interview with DER SPIEGEL and on some other occasions, you alluded to the fact that the UN secretary general has given you complete assurance that as regards the UN point of view, the 1975 accord is valid. What has raised this question is that the secretary general has not openly stated this anywhere else. In view of the fact that this issue is one of the main points of difference between us and Iraq, do you not think that if this issue is openly declared by the international community and the UN secretary general in particular, it would solve a lot of problems?

[Velayati] As far as the matter of the UN secretary general declaring whether the 1975 accord is valid or not is concerned, it pertains entirely to him. However, he will declare this when it is questioned. In the official session we asked him about this, his legal adviser declared the validity of the 1975 accord, and the secretary general endorsed and stressed its validity. The international political scene is not one for legal debates, unless of course the need arises.

As far as a specialized legal debate is concerned, if necessary we will use all the resources and possibilities available to us to prove our claims. However, so that you know the situation regarding the 1975 accord, I wish to state it was signed by the then foreign ministers of the two countries in 1975, it was ratified by the parliaments of the two countries, and it was registered in the United Nations. It also features in the book published in 1976 on valid international accords, which is disseminated by the United Nations on occasion. It has been published in that book.

Therefore, the presence of this book—this official UN publication—and the incorporation into it of the 1975 accord as a valid agreement have as much legal validity as a verbal pronouncement by the UN secretary general or his colleague. For numerous reasons, some of which were mentioned earlier, and based on what I have said just now, the 1975 accord is valid from the point of view of international law and from the point of view of the United Nations as the most important international organization, which safeguards international rights.

[Afshar] Mr Naseri, this week, during the visit to Tehran of Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, he said that the Kremlin has realized that, until now, it has made numerous mistakes nad it is endeavoring to eliminate them. In view of the fact that the Soviet Union has always been one of the suppporters of Iraq, could you tell us if this will affect the trend of talks?

[Naseri] This reference of Mr Metternich...

[Afshar, interrupting] Bessmertnykh.

[Naseri, mispronouncing name again] Mr Mernykh's remarks could be related to the present Soviet leadership's views on internal issues or Soviet policy in general. Howver, the fact that these remarks were made in Tehran in talks with our officials, it could in a way be related to the mistakes made by the Soviet Union in its policy in the region, as regards its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran-Iraq war in general, as well as on the Afghanistan issue. Regarding Afghanistan, we feel that the Soviet Union has reached the conclusion that it was unsuccessful in Afghanistan and is seeking a way out of the predicament in which it has become embroiled.

As regards the Iran-Iraq war, the Soviet Union unfortunately did not follow a correct policy and provided comprehensive support to Iraq during the course of the war, especially as regards military assistance. Acknowledging this is very difficult and cannot be justified or explained. However, our belief is that recently, especially once the peace talks began, the Soviet Union has seemed inclined to reassess its policies, and perhaps this statement by Mr Bessmertnykh is evidence of this. In general, from our talks with the Soviet Union we have gleaned that the Soviet Union is gradually trying to change its policies in this region.

They are awakening to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a vast country of immense importance, with a long common border with the USSR, and plays a decisive role in the region. This can be the basis for a more healthy and balanced relationship in the future. As we proceed, and we perceive this approach by the Soviet Union, we find this attitude more positive for expanding cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Therefore, it is bound to affect our talks, though not in a very categorical, comprehensive, or multilateral manner. In any case, the Soviet Union has influence on Iraq because of the assistance it has rendered and can influence the decisions that would be taken in Baghdad; at least that is our deduction.

[Afshar] Yes. Dr Velayati, as my last question in this program, according to reports by news agencies, Saddam has announced that in the next 10 days, he is ready to sign a peace accord with Iran. Could you please tell us whether this is true? If your answer is yes, people would like to know more.

[Velayati] I do not understand what he means by a peace accord. If he means that in 10 days it is possible to reach an outcome in the peace talks, then we agree, but on the condition that the Iraqi side, in the true sense of the word, is ready to implement Resolution No 598. It is futile to make statements removed from a stipulated

framework without the will of the sides involved in the talks. On the contrary, it creates confusion and an uncertainty which resembles a school debate rather than peace talks.

If by a peace accord he means that in which the dimensions of the talks are clarified, the objectives of the discussions are specified, and a guarantee for a continuation of a state of peace and the prevention of a return to war are given, then I wish to add that all these are contained in Resolution No 598. When the two sides have accepted this we have the beginings of a durable peace. We do not see any obstacles in its path.

If Iraq, like Iran, moves within the approved framework laid down by the UN Security Council, we can speedily attain the desired results rearding a durable, comprehensive, just, and dignified peace to the benefit of the two nations of Iran and Iraq, and Iran, Iraq and other countries of the region will be ale to coexist with good-neighborliness and cooperation in the region.

[Afshar] I thank you very much gentlemen for participating in this program. Dear viewers, I thank you for your attention to this program. At the end of this program, with the participants of this program—Messrs Dr Velayati and Naseri—and all my colleagues in the second network's political group of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish you good-bye. God bless you and good night!

Enemies 'Might' Force Resumption of Gulf War

LD1711181188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has dispatched a report on the trip by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Islamic Majlis, to Khuzestan Province, to which we draw your attention: [passage indistinct]

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces referred to the need to maintain the readiness of the Armed Forces and said: Our enemy initiated the war under a vague pretext. This enemy is not independent and our true enemies might force him to resume the war again. We, therefore, have to strengthen our defense forces. [passage omitted]

UN Commander Ends Tour of Cease-Fire Line

LD1611113288 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1010 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, 16 Nov (TANJUG)—UNIIMOG [UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] is performing its set tasks successfully and the ceasefire is mainly peaceful. Major General Slavko Jovic, UNIIMOG commander, made these remarks today to Goran Opacic, TANJUG correspondent in Tehran.

Today, Maj Gen Jovic ends his tour of the ceasefire line from the Iranian side, and leaves for Iraq. At a meeting with representatives of the Iranian armed forces he discussed consolidating the cease-fire line established 3 months ago. UNIIMOG is successfully resolving the occasional incident thanks to the good will, understanding, and assistance of the Iranian and Iraqi armed forces, Maj Gen Jovic said.

Letter of Understanding Signed With USSR

LD1711195388 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—A letter of understanding was inked Thursday during a meeting between the visiting Soviet official and minister of housing and urban development.

Serajeddin Kazeruni told Soviet deputy chairman of the State Committee for Construction Oleg Viktorovich Bortemyev [name as received] that the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is based on mutual respect and preservation of each other's interests.

Kazeruni reminded the Soviet official for speeding up spare parts needed for construction plants established by his country in Iran.

Bortemyev in reply promised Moscow would take effective measure to meet the existing needs and to modernize the plants.

The two also discussed expansion of Tehran-Moscow cooperation in various construction areas and production of construction materials.

According to the letter of understanding, the two sides agreed on mutual engineering consulting services, and establishment of plants for producing construction materials.

Also agreed on the letter was modernization of 4 construction plants in Iran and cooperation in establishment of new plants of this kind.

The letter also calls for Iran's purchase of raw construction materials from the Soviet Union in the frame-work of the permanent economic cooperation commission. Bortemyev arrived here Nov. 10 at the head of a delegation.

USSR Envoy Discusses Parliamentary Ties

LD1711210088 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Soviet Union is keen to expand parliamentary ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ambassador Vladimir Gudev told Majlis vice-speaker here today.

In reply Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hashemian said the two countries share many viewpoints on the basis of which mutual relations can be expanded at the international level.

"Iran's political independence should be seriously taken into consideration in expansion of bilateral ties," Heshemian stressed, and asked Moscow to pressure the Iraqi regime for its obstructions of the peace talks to implement U.N. Resolution 598.

Commentary on Pakistan's 'Path Toward Democracy'
LD1711130888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Political observers believe that there is little possibility that any of the parties and groups will be able to obtain overall majority in the parliament on their own. Still it is believed that any of the main rival groups who succeed in gaining the support of the smaller parties, will probably become victorious. [passage omitted]

Since according to the Pakistani Constitution presidential elections will be held 30 days after parliamentary elections, reaching agreement between the Pakistan People Party [PPP] and the Islamic Democratic Coalition on the future president will be the most crucial issue.

What is significant is that Pakistan is now treading on the path toward democracy, through the general elections taking place in that country. It is the responsibility of the people and officials of that country to safeguard the security and the future of the third most populated Muslim country. Because political developments have always contained potential dangers for that country.

Therefore a strong and democratic government can create the necessary balance in Pakistan's domestic and foreign policies, which have special sensitivity due to Pakistan's regional and international strategic position. Pakistan, which appeared on the world map in 1947 through an Islamic mission now enjoys a distinguished role in regional and global affairs, with more than 100 million population.

Furthermore, the new experience of a parliamentary government, which is taking shape after several decades of military rule, will provide the Pakistani people with the means to take steps toward greater growth and progress.

Pakistan

Bhutto Claims Enough Support To Form Government
BK1811131688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Karachi, Nov 18 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto said here Friday her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had received the support of a sufficient number of newly elected independent MP's to form a government. Ms Bhutto told a news conference at her house that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had no option but to invite the PPP to form the next government.

"We have a simple majority, and we can demonstrate this tomorrow in the house," she said.

The PPP won 92 of 204 seats decided in Wednesday's election. Its key rivals, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), won 54, independents a total of 40 and small regional parties 10.

Ishaq Khan Congratulates Successful Candidates
BK1711153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has sent congratulatory telegrams to all the National Assembly members who have been declared elected in the provisional results of the elections. The president has sent individual telegrams to the members saying: It is a matter of great satisfaction that the people of your locality have expressed confidence in your leadership and have chosen you as their representative. I pray to God that He may grant you strength and courage to fulfill your new responsibilities.

The president expressed the hope that the newly elected members will serve the nation in a fair manner and will spare no efforts for its well being.

Sri Lanka

17 Injured in Bomb Explosion at Election Rally
BK1811022088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0155 GMT 18 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo Nov 17, (LANKAPUVATH)—Police reported 17 persons were injured when a bomb was exploded at a meeting being held in support of the United Socialist Alliance candidate for the forthcoming presidential election, Ossie Abeygoonesekera, at Layards Broadway in Grandpass Colombo north this evening. There had been a stampede when after the explosion the crowd ran helter skelter.

The inspector general of police, Ernest Perera, told LANKAPUVATH that no one was killed but 17 persons had been injured by the bomb blast.

Senior police officers including the head of the Crime Detection Bureau of the police, Senior Superintendent Ignatius Canagaratnam rushed to the scene of the explosion and were making on the spot investigations.

Presidential Candidate Unhurt

BK1711171588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 17 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan leftist presidential candidate escaped unhurt in an assassination attempt Thursday when three bombs exploded at his first campaign rally here, killing a bodyguard, a party spokesman said.

Ossie Abeygoonasekera, 35, vice president of the Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party (SLMP) was about to speak when three bombs exploded near him during a rally at Kosgashandiya in Colombo's Grandpass District, SLMP Spokesman Tudor Dayaratne said.

Mr. Abeygoonasekera, one of three candidates contesting the December 19 presidential election, was not injured but a bodyguard, Chandra Wimala, died in hospital, party officials and doctors said.

Vasudeva Nanayakkara, leader of the Marxist Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP), a close ally of the SLMP, said the attack was aimed at assassinating the leftist leader.

"We resumed the meeting after the blast to find an unexploded bomb near the stage. The attack was clearly aimed at people on the stage and not just to disrupt the rally," Mr. Nanayakkara told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Nanayakkara was criticising the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) when the bombs went off.

He said between 40 and 50 people were taken to hospital. Witnesses said over 200 people received minor injuries during a stampede which followed the loud explosions. Among the wounded was the SLMP General Secretary Y. P. De Silva and several journalists covering the meeting, Mr. Dayaratne said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but police said they suspected the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), an arch rival of the SLMP.

The SLMP's former leader, Vijaya Kumaratunga, was assassinated by suspected JVP gunmen in February.

The JVP has accused the SLMP of being "traitors" and is suspected of murdering several of its supporters.

Mr. Nanayakkara said the other two parties contesting the presidential election, the ruling United National Party (UNP) and SLFP and the JVP were suspects. "The JVP more so because they killed Mr. Kumaratunga," he charged.

The SLMP and the NSSP back the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which the JVP bitterly opposes.

Under the peace plan which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, New Delhi has some 49,000 troops in the island's Tamil populated Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Police Open Fire on Demonstrators; 1 Killed

BK1711130488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1239 GMT 17 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—One person was killed and 13 injured when the security forces were forced to open fire on an illegal demonstration at Kurunegala today, police told LANKAPUVATH. Several warnings and tear gassing had failed to disperse the demonstrators. The local police clamped a curfew in the affected area.

General Amnesty To Ease Congestion at Prisons

BK1611113088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The new minister of justice, Paul Perera, has recommended to the president a general amnesty to prisoners to ease the severe congestion in the prisons. This recommendation has been approved by the president. Under this amnesty, prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for the default of payment of fines will be released. Other prisoners will receive a remission of 3 weeks for every year served in prison.

However, prisoners serving sentences for serious offenses under the penal code, as well as those convicted under the emergency regulations, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Firearms Ordinance, the Explosives Act, the Offensive Weapon Act, the Offenses Against Aircraft Act, and drug trafficking, will be excluded from the amnesty. The amnesty is likely to enable the release of about 600 prisoners.